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II

Japan

Tokyo Supports UN Resolution on Force in Bosnia

OW1408023392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0215 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 14 KYODO—Japan expressed support Friday for a United Nations resolution authorizing the use of force, if necessary, to ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid to beleaguered inhabitants of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa said Japan will maintain strong support for efforts toward a political settlement by the United Nations and European Community (EC).

He also said Japan will continue positive cooperation with international organizations in providing financial assistance to refugees.

Japanese Government officials said, however, that it would be difficult for Japan to contribute personnel because the newly enacted UN Peacekeeping Cooperation Law stipulates approval of all concerned parties in a conflict as a precondition for Japan's dispatch of peacekeepers.

Miyazawa Decides Not To Visit Yasukuni Shrine

OW1308112692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1108 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 13 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has decided not to visit Yasukuni shrine either in his official capacity or privately this Saturday, the day commemorating the end of World War II, officials close to the premier said Thursday.

Miyazawa told reporters in Nagasaki last Sunday he would pay homage to the war dead enshrined at Yasukuni privately.

But concerns that such a visit to the shrine might affect the emperor's planned trip to China this autumn have prompted Miyazawa to postpone visiting the shrine until at least November.

In August 1985, Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone became the first postwar premier to make an official visit to the shrine, provoking protests from neighboring countries, mainly China and South Korea. Since then no premier has visited the shrine in an official capacity.

Foreign Minister Watanabe Leaves Hospital

OW1208050292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0429 GMT 12 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 12 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe left the hospital Wednesday after falling ill in late May and undergoing a gallstone operation in mid-June.

Watanabe, who resumed official duties on July 13 but commuted to work from Tokyo Women's Medical College Hospital, told reporters he will be taking a one-week leave in his home prefecture of Tochigi.

He said he would undergo rehabilitation there and study up for his scheduled visit to Moscow at the end of this month for talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev on the two countries' protracted territorial dispute.

Watanabe looked thinner than before he fell ill, but said he felt in excellent condition.

"But it's only natural for one to lose some strength after two months of hospitalization," he said, noting that his legs were especially weak from lying down for so long.

The foreign minister, who serves concurrently as deputy prime minister, indicated to reporters Tuesday he would not go to Bangkok to attend a September 10-11 ministerial meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

But he said no decision has been reached yet on prospects of his traveling to New York later in September to attend the opening of a new session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Weak Economy, Pump-Priming Measures Reviewed

OW1408050492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0413 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 14 KYODO—Preparation of a package of measures to rev up the sluggish Japanese economy will be in full swing next week amid widespread pessimism over the chances for a quick rebound of faltering Tokyo stock prices.

A key benchmark on the Tokyo stock exchange, the Nikkei stock average of 225 selected issues, stayed below the psychologically important 15,000 mark for most of this week, slumping to a 77-month low and a whopping 62 percent down from its peak of 38,915.87 marked on December 29, 1989.

Fearing the Japanese stock market slump may develop into a full-scale financial crunch, the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party are working out the details of the economic package to be announced by the end of August.

The LDP is taking the initiative in mapping out the pump-priming measures, which incorporate a supplementary budget for fiscal 1992 with total construction outlays projected at over 7 trillion yen, party sources said.

But the supplementary budget may not be officially compiled until late October due to strong opposition from the Finance Ministry, which says more revenue and other economic data are needed before it can fix the details of the proposed budget, the sources said.

The ministry is expected to include in the package steps to lure individual investors back to the stock market, including the lowering of the minimum trading volume per investor from 1,000 shares to 100 shares and the splitting of large-denomination stock such as Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT).

Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno is scheduled to hold a regular news conference Wednesday amid growing speculation that the central bank will have to lower its official discount rate again this fall to help private banks overcome their looming financial difficulties.

The central bank last cut the key lending rate by half a percentage point to 3.25 percent July 27 as a key element of the recent economic package, which included the front-loading of public works spending for fiscal 1992.

Mieno has said there is no need for any further cut in the interest rate, which is what the central bank charges on loans to its member banks, but while indicating that he will keep a close watch on future developments he carefully avoided categorically ruling out such a possibility.

As a result of the latest discount rate cut, regulated interest rates which commercial banks and post offices pay to depositors will come down Monday, with the reductions varying from 0.33 percentage point for time deposits to 0.12 percentage point for ordinary deposits.

The ordinary bank deposit will carry an interest rate of a mere 0.38 percent, compared with the current 0.50 percent, while a typical one-year bank deposit will bear 3.82 percent, down from 4.15 percent. Interest-floating deposits will also have their rates reduced accordingly, financial sources said.

Japanese Government officials will continue intense homework next week while Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and most other key politicians will be away from Tokyo to enjoy summer holidays ahead of the important political events.

One of their tasks is to prepare for the visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who comes to Japan as a state guest from September 13 to 16, with a bilateral territorial issue topping the agenda. Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, still recuperating from an intestinal illness, is expected to visit Russia in late August to prepare for what will be the first Japan visit by a top Russian leader since the demise of the Soviet Union.

Emperor Akihito is now scheduled to visit China in late October at the invitation of the Chinese Government as the first reigning emperor to do so in Japanese history, while public opinion remains divided over the advisability of the visit at this time. Opponents say the visit may be used for political purposes in China's favor.

The Japanese Government and the ruling party have recently decided after vigorous debate within the party that the visit should go ahead as planned, probably from October 22 to 27, because the two countries mark the 20th anniversary of normalization of diplomatic relations on September 29.

Another major task for bureaucrats in the midst of the summer is to prepare for dispatching Japanese Self-Defense Forces troops to Cambodia later this year to join the United Nations peacekeeping mission there under a controversial law recently enacted despite tough opposition in both houses of the Diet.

This will be the first deployment of Japanese soldiers on an overseas mission in the postwar period, though for peaceful purposes, and will take place under the watchful eyes of Asian countries victimized by Japanese military aggression half a century ago.

Japan is expected to send some 600 ground Self-Defense Force personnel, mostly engineering troops, to the war-torn country in early October to help repair national highways and bridges there.

Discussions Proposed on Stock Market Reforms

OW1308120292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1114 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 13 KYODO—A government-backed research institute proposed discussions Thursday on structural reforms of the Japanese stock market to help recover investor confidence in the market.

The proposal was made in a report issued by the Norinchukin Research Institute, the research arm of Norinchukin Bank, a government-backed financial institution for agriculture, forestry, and fisheries industries.

The report said studies should be made on lifting restrictions on companies' ownership of their own shares, increasing dividend payments, requiring disclosure of more financial data, and revising the tax system for stock investments.

It said the mass stock issues during the stock boom years of the speculative "bubble economy" and mutual stock ownership by affiliated companies present structural stock supply-and-demand problems.

Increase in Birth Rate, Urban Migration Reported

OW1408103292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0816 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 14 KYODO—The number of people born in fiscal 1991 rose to 1,226,559, up 11,318 from the previous year, representing the first year-on-year growth since 1979, according to a report released Friday by the Home Affairs Ministry.

Japan's total population totaled 123,587,297, up 430,619, when the fiscal year ended on March 31. This represents a 0.35 percent increase from fiscal 1990, the ministry said in a report based on the officially registered population.

There were 60,752,245 men, or 49.2 percent of the population, and 62,835,052 women, or 50.8 percent. The male-to-female ratio has remained even since 1987.

Although suburban areas saw sluggish population growth, the three urban areas of Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka saw their populations continue to grow.

The population rose at an annual rate of 0.54 percent, up 0.03 percentage point, around the three major cities, and 0.17 percent in other suburban areas. The growth rate in the three urban areas is 0.19 percentage point larger than the national average growth rate of 0.35 percent.

The number of households nationwide increased to 42,457,975, up 1.58 percent. But the number of people per household stood at 2.91, slipping below the record low of 2.95 registered in 1990.

The ministry attributed the decline in the number of households to an increase in single-member households consisting of elderly or unmarried people.

Tokyo remained by far Japan's most populated prefecture, with 11,633,582 residents, up from 11,631,901 in the previous year.

The Japanese capital chalked up a population gain for the first time in five years.

Osaka Prefecture ranked second with 8,552,322, up from 8,548,084, and Kanagawa, which includes Yokohama, was in third place with 8,002,445, up from 7,931,520.

Saitama Prefecture took top place in the nation for both population growth and increased numbers for five years in a row. It posted 1.33 percent growth last fiscal year.

The population increased in 30 prefectures, including Chiba, Shiga and Nara, and declined in 17 prefectures, such as Tottori, Shimane and Fukui.

Report Highlights Vote-Value Disparities

OW1408092892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0810 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 14 KYODO—Each vote in the least populated constituency of the House of Representatives is worth 3.40 times more than one vote in the most heavily populated district, the Home Affairs Ministry reported Friday.

The figure is up from 3.34 in 1991, the ministry said in a report based on Japan's officially registered population as of March 31.

The number of heavily populated electoral districts where each vote is worth one-third or less of a vote in the least populated district gained two for a total of eight, the ministry said.

The highest disparity for the 512-seat lower house was in the No. 4 constituency of Chiba Prefecture, where ballots had 3.40 times less value than in Tokyo's No. 8 district, according to the October 1, 1990, national census.

The Supreme Court ruled in 1983 that a disparity in the value of votes exceeding 3-to-1 was counter to the principle of equality delineated in the constitution. After the ruling, the lower house reduced the gap by increasing one seat each in eight constituencies and paring one seat each in seven districts.

The No. 4 constituency of Chiba Prefecture has the most voters per parliament seat with 464,139, the ministry said, while the No. 8 Tokyo constituency has the fewest voters per representative, at 136,330.

This means that one ballot in the No. 8 Tokyo constituency in central part of the capital is worth 3.40 times as much as one in the No. 4 Chiba constituency. The No. 8 Tokyo district includes parts of Chuo, Bunkyo and Taito wards in the center of the city.

There are seven other constituencies where one ballot is worth less than one-third as much as a vote in the No. 8 Tokyo constituency—the No. 3 and No. 4 constituencies of Kanagawa Prefecture, the No. 1, No. 2 and No. 5 districts of Saitama Prefecture, the No. 1 constituency of Hiroshima Prefecture and the No. 1 district of Fukuoka Prefecture.

The ministry said there are 34 constituencies with a vote-value disparity of two times or more in the lower house.

For the House of Councillors, the largest disparity between constituencies was 6.46, up from 6.40 last year. The Tottori prefectural constituency has the fewest voters per upper house member with 309,558 eligible voters.

One ballot there is worth 6.46 times as much as one in the most populous Kanagawa prefectural district, which has 2,000,611 voters.

Each vote for an upper house member in the Tottori Prefecture district is also worth more than three times as much as ones in Saitama, Tokyo, Osaka and Chiba.

Even if the Diet seat reallocation plan backed by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa should be implemented, the value of a vote in some districts would remain more than three times the value of votes cast in other areas.

Miyazawa wants to pass the plan in an extraordianry Diet session in the fall. It entails adding one seat each in nine constituencies and cutting one seat in 10 districts as a stopgap measure before thrashing out a comprehensive political reform plan in November.

5-Year Plan To Revitalize Farming Area Unveiled

OW1308103692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0932 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 13 KYODO—The government unveiled Thursday a five-year plan aimed at revitalizing depopulated, remote farming areas with aging populations.

The program, drafted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, calls for a reorganization of such areas and better use of forest and inclined farming land near mountains, ministry officials said.

Agricultural and forestry production at these areas has been on the decline because of higher production costs and a drop in population, notably young people.

The ministry will ask the Finance Ministry to budget 1.5 billion yen for the program in fiscal 1993, the first year of a program mapped out in line with a new farming policy to revitalize the nation's agriculture, the officials said.

North Korea

ROK-U.S. Exercises Said Adding to Tensions

SK1408111492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1047 GMT 14 Aug 92

["Military Row To Cast Damp Over Inter-Korean Dialogue"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, August 14 (KCNA)—The South Korea-U.S. "Combined Forces Command" announced on August 13 that Patriot missiles which had been used in the Gulf war would be deployed in Suwon Airforce Base about 30 km south of Seoul immediately as part of the Focus Lens training, according to reports from Seoul.

It also announced that a large force would leave the U.S. mainland to participate in the Focus Lens.

On the other hand, the United States and the South Korean authorities declared that field maneuvers of the U.S. Forces and the puppet army would be staged from September 1 to 5, independently of the Focus Lens.

The repeated advertisement of the plans to hold military exercises by the U.S. and South Korean warlikers shows how desperately they are trying to throw a wet blanket over the multi-channeled dialogue under way between the North and the South.

This goes to prove that they are continually seeking to key up the tensions, far from trying to remove the military confrontation for peace and peaceful reunification on the Korean peninsula.

It must not go unnoticed that the United States and the South Korean authorities are going to stage one more joint field drill in September following the Focus Lens, a disguised version of the "Team Spirit". This military racket targeted against tne eighth North-South high-level talks reveals that the criminal moves of the U.S. and the South Korean authorities to spoil the atmosphere of dialogue and negate the dialogue have reached a very reckless stage.

The Korean people are sternly denouncing with national resentment these military rackets aimed at increasing the tensions on the Korean peninsula and watching them with heightened vigilance.

Group Condemns Russian Vice Premier's Remarks

SK1408020192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 10 Aug 92

[Text] The Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan [Chongnyon] have issued a statement in Japan denouncing the absurd remarks made by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Poltoranin that slandered and defamed the Republic. The remarks also calumniated the joint efforts of the North Korean and Japanese people for normalizing diplomatic relations. The committee issued this statement during a news conference held in Tokyo's Korea Hall on 10 August.

Reporters from Japanese newspapers, news agencies and television broadcasting stations, South Korea, Chongnyon, as well as foreign correspondents attended the news conference.

Ho Chong-nam, vice chairman of the Chongnyon Central Standing Committee, read the statement and answered the questions of domestic and foreign reporters.

The full text of the statement follows:

In talks with a governor of a local government in Japan on 6 August, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Poltoranin made an absurd remark that slandered and defamed the DPRK. It also calumniated our people's cause for national reunification and joint efforts of the North Korean and Japanese people for normalizing relations.

Poltoranin not only viciously distorted and falsified the political system of the Republic but also said that Japan should refuse to pay compensation to the Republic at DPRK-Japan negotiations. He even unhesitatingly made preposterous remarks that if compensation is paid to the Republic, Korea's reunification would be delayed.

His absurd remarks enraged all Korean residents in Japan and evoked surprise and denunciation among the world's people including the Japanese.

We must say that such remarks, recklessly made by Poltoranin while visiting Japan, are absolutely intolerable criminal remarks which faithfully represented the aggressive attempt of the world's reactionaries who are dreaming of achieving reunification through absorption in Korea in such a manner as to internationally isolate the Republic and to have the South conquer the North.

The Chongnyon Central Standing Committee sternly condemns Mikhail Poltoranin's recent absurd remarks as a grave challenge to the Republic—a dignified independent sovereign state—to the Republic's citizens living in Japan. It also challenges the pan-national cause for national reunification. It intolerably mocks all Korean and Japanese people who sincerely desire normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations. The Chongnyon Central Standing Committee sternly denounces his remarks with surging indignation.

As has been clearly shown by our history of overcoming arduous trials and today's solemn realities, our Republic is a socialist country which achieved the firm single-hearted unity among the leader [suryong], the party and the people under the wise leadership of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song and dear leader Marshal Kim Chong-il. Our country has attained political stability and laid a firm foundation for a self-reliant national economy. Our Republic has dignity and might which no one can demolish.

The Republic, which thoroughly implements the line of independent politics, self-reliant economy and self-defense under the banner of the chuche idea, excellently built popular mass-centered socialism of our own style without wavering even amid international changes and is guaranteeing with patriotic policies the national dignity, rights and future happiness of our compatriots in Japan. The Republic is our precious motherly bosom.

This is why Chongnyon and Korean residents in Japan are grandly marching forward by cherishing a boundless pride in having the socialist fatherland, which is victoriously advancing along the chuche road by upholding the great leader. This is why the world's progressive people gained courage and confidence in the anti-imperialist cause for independence, as well as the socialist cause they gained these from the Republic's realities.

Concerning the absurd and ridiculous remarks made by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Poltoranin, we must say that he has no normal thinking capability to correctly view reality and has no basic common sense for state diplomacy.

In a 28 July statement and in a friendship gathering to mark the 31st anniversary of the conclusion of the DPRK-Soviet Union treaty, the Russian Foreign Ministry and high-ranking authorities repeatedly made public their official view that the treaty on friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance concluded between the DPRK and the Soviet Union in July 1961 is still effective in Russia and that the Russian Government will continuously implement obligations stipulated in this treaty.

Poltoranin should carefully contemplate whose intent his remarks and acts represent and whom he betrays regarding this. He should bear the full responsibility for all consequences arising from his absurd remarks.

As for Korea's reunification, it is a domestic issue and a cause which should be achieved with the driving force of our nation without outside interference based on the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity.

The only method for national reunification throughout the nation and abroad is the confederal system which recognizes the existing ideologies and systems in the North and South, instead of one conquering the other. With the historic North-South agreement and joint denuclearization declaration being adopted and effectuated, a new epochal aspect has opened on the road of reunification.

The will of all fellow countrymen to achieve the great national unity, to call for implementation of the North-South agreement and to achieve national reunification in the manner of a confederal system in the nineties is being clearly demonstrated in the third 15 August pan-national rally being splendidly held with unanimous participation of compatriots of the North, the South and overseas.

Poltoranin should clearly realize that no one can block our people's powerful grand march for national reunification. He should realize how grave of crime his absurd remarks hindering this march will become.

We can never tolerate his remarks on DPRK-Japan relations. From the outset, improvement in DPRK-Japan relations was designed for Japan to liquidate its past crime of invading Korea and to establish relations of mutual understanding and trust in the future. What works as a basic factor in doing this is for Japan to apologize to the Republic and to the Korean people for damages and losses it caused and to pay due compensation.

The normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations will not only open a new history in DPRK-Japan relations but will also greatly contribute to building an independent and prosperous new Asia. It will also contribute to world peace and security.

Overwhelming public opinion among the Japanese people today demands the early realization of normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations. This is clearly demonstrated by the fact that assemblies in 2,374 local self-governing bodies including 42 islands, cities and prefectures, including the capital of Tokyo, Aichi Prefecture, Osaka City, Fukuoka Prefecture and Hokkaido adopted resolutions for realizing the normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations.

Poltoranin's remarks on DPRK-Japan relations are absurd and preposterous. They distort historic facts and run counter to demands and aspirations of the North Korean and Japanese people.

Mikhail Poltoranin's recent remarks are intolerably absurd and preposterous. They ridicule the Korean people's sacred historic cause and run counter to the trends of the time. We strongly urge him to immediately retract his absurd remarks and to apologize to the Korean residents in Japan and to the Korean people.

All Chongnyon functionaries and Korean residents in Japan will resolutely repel anti-Republic and antireunification maneuvers in the future, too, in firm unity with the great leader and dear comrade leader, and will tenaciously defend the socialist fatherland. We will actively contribute to the cause of national reunification in the nineties and to the North Korean-Japanese people's friendship.

[dated] 10 August 1992
Tokyo, Japan

Korean Liberation Marked at Russian Embassy

SK1408052392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0443 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Pyongyang, August 14 (KCNA)—A friendship gathering was held at the embassy of the Russian Federation in Korea Thursday [13 August] on the lapse of 47 years since the liberation of Korea.

Invited there were Cho Kyu-il, vice-minister of foreign affairs, Han Son-kuk, vice-chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, Yi Pong-hui, vice-chairman of the DPRK Radio and TV Broadcasting Committee and chairman of the Korea-Russia Friendship Association, and other officials concerned.

Russian Ambassador Yuriy Fadeyev and his embassy officials were on hand.

Speeches were made at the gathering.

Russians Attend Film Show Marking Liberation

SK1408054492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0445 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Pyongyang, August 14 (KCNA)—A film show was arranged at the Chollima House of Culture Thursday [13 August] on the 47th anniversary of the national liberation.

Invited there were Russian Ambassador to Korea Yuriy Fadeyev and his embassy officials.

Han Son-guk, vice-chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, Yi Pong-hui, vice-chairman of the DPRK Radio and TV Broadcasting Committee and chairman of the Korea-Russia Friendship Association, other officials concerned and working people in the city were present.

The participants saw a feature film.

Rallies, Demonstrations in South Reported

SK1208052992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT 12 Aug 92

[Text] Pyongyang, August 12 (KCNA)—An estimated 1,500 students affiliated with the National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop) held rallies and demonstrations at seven universities in Seoul Tuesday [11 August] afternoon demanding guarantee for the opening of the pannational rally [PNR] and the release of the chairman and hardcore members of Chondaehyop arrested by police, according to radio reports from Seoul.

On the same day, the South Korean Catholic Priests' Council for Justice released a statement denouncing the authorities' suppression of the PNR.

The statement urged a halt to the suppression of the PNR by the "authorities," criticizing it as an act of denying their will for reunification.

Students in Taegu attacked police booths to show their protest against the frantic crackdown of the authorities including a search at Chungang and other universities in Seoul aimed at blocking the PNR.

South Activities for Pan-National Rally Noted

SK1408053992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0453 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Pyongyang, August 14 (KCNA)—More than 4,000 students affiliated with the National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop) held a rally and a demonstration Thursday [13 August], renewing their resolution to participate in the pan-national rally (PNR), according to radio reports from Seoul.

On the previous day, above 1,000 students under the Kwangju-South Cholla provincial Federation of General Students Councils held a rally for a success of the PNR and demanding the release of the Chondaehyop chairman and staged a demonstration.

Meanwhile, the South Korean National Council of Christian Churches held a Christian consultative meeting for peaceful reunification Wednesday and denounced the authorities' suppression of the PNR.

The organisation in a resolution adopted at the meeting charged that the blocking of the PNR by the "government" is to bar the civilian-level reunification movement.

Students Play Reunification Sports Games

SK1308231392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1522 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] Pyongyang, August 13 (KCNA)—Reunification sports games of students of the North and from overseas took place at the Sosan Football Stadium in Chongchun Street, Pyongyang today.

The games were seen by Chairman of the North side's headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon) Yun Ki-pok, Secretary General of Pomminnyon Yim Min-sik, delegations of Koreans overseas and working people in the city.

Ku No-man, chairman of the youth committee for the promotion of Korea's reunification in the Commonwealth of Independent States, in his opening address, said that the songs and dances, beating of drums and gongs and loud shouts of students of the North and from overseas united in one mind would be merged into resounding cheers of reiunification of the fellow countrymen.

Then followed a national reunification football game of students of the North and from overseas, who were mixed and divided into a white team and a red team.

The game ended in a draw 2:2.

The sports games included a tug-of-war, a relay race for 1995 meters symbolic of the "first year of reunification",

and the flying of doves for national reunification and other sports and amusement games.

The sports games were pervaded with fervent enthusiasm to achieve national reunification at any cost in the 1990s.

Pyongyang Citizens Welcome South Korean Defector

SK1208050492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0422 GMT 12 Aug 92

[Text] Pyongyang, August 12 (KCNA)—Pyongyang citizens met Tuesday [11 August] to welcome Chong Tae-su who had been a representative of Taeil Construction Co., Ltd. of South Korea before coming over to the northern half of the country.

Chong Tae-su was awarded an order of the DPRK together with a sizable sum of monetary prize and souvenirs at the meeting.

Sin An-pang, vice-chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administrative and Economic Committee, in his welcome address warmly hailed his defection in the name of the Pyongyang citizens, and expressed the hope that Chong would dedicate his wisdom and efforts to the reunification and the prosperous development of the country in the future.

In his reply Chong Tae-su said the South Korean society is a society under ferocious military dictatorship, a living hell where democracy and human rights are violated ruthlessly and everything patriotic and progressive is destroyed.

The North is, indeed, a wonderful society in which the working masses are respected most and everything serves them, he said, and added: It is an excellent society in which the entire people are closely rallied behind the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il, forming themselves into a big family, and those who loyally work for the country and the nation with all devotion are loved and honored.

Some time ago, I learned about my uncle and elder sister whose whereabouts had been unknown for 42 years since I saw them last, and had an emotional meeting with my cousin and nephews, he said, and stressed:

I deem it highest honor and pride to have come to the warm embrace of love of the great President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il and will devote all my efforts to the noble cause of national reunification, cherishing this honor and pride deep in my mind.

South Korean Man Defects With Daughter

SK1208134092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1048 GMT 12 Aug 92

[Text] Pyongyang, August 12 (KCNA)—Chon Pong-yu, 47, representative of the Han book publishing house of South Korea, came over to the northern half of the country, bringing his daughter Chon Chae-nin, 11, with him.

He, hailing from Sinyon-ri, Saengcho-myon, Sanchong County, South Kyongsang Province, studied by himself after finishing a primary school course and served in the army from May 1964 to September 1966. After being demobilized, he drove a taxi and engaged himself in the movie industry and publishing business.

His daughter Chon Chae-nin was a primary school child.

Explaining the motive of his defection, he said he came over to the North because the South Korean society is a corrupt society where the commoners like him can never eke out a living and, through newspapers and radio, he learned a little about the reality of the socialist North which is most independent and defends the soul of the nation.

If the North and the South are reunified, ours will be a powerful and dignified country in the world, he said.

South Korea

Government, Businesses To Counteract Trade Pact

SK1408045592 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 14 Aug 92 p 1

[Text] The government and business circles have begun to study various measures to minimize the impact of the formation of a free trade zone among the United States, Canada and Mexico on exports to the three North American countries.

The government expressed hope yesterday that the free trade agreement among the three North American countries would not lead to a protectionist trade bloc.

A ranking Foreign Ministry official commented, "Our government hopes that the agreement will contribute to promoting global free trade in accordance with GATT principles rather than forementing protectionist regionalism."

Government officials observed that a working group will be formed within the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to determine whether the North American Free Trade Agreement contains clauses contrary to the provisions regarding free trade.

Article 24 of GATT stipulates that duties and other regulations of commerce applicable at the formation of a free trade area shall not be higher or more restrictive than the corresponding ones prior to the formation of the free trade zone. Japan also showed a keen response to the conclusion of the free trade treaty.

The government will positively participate in the envisioned GATT working group meetings after closely analyzing the contents of the free trade agreement, officials said.

They say that the government will also promote conclusion of accords on investment guarantees and prevention of double taxation with Mexico as soon as possible.

The government plans to increase financial incentives for exports to the North American countries and for investment in Mexico for joint ventures, according to the Trade-Industry Ministry.

The government and business circles will form a joint task force by the end of this month to work out countermeasures to cope with the new economic order in North America.

Exports of cars and electronic and textile goods, among others, are expected to fall as the North American Free Trade Agreement will create the world's largest trading bloc and link 360 million consumers in a $6-trillion market.

The United States was Korea's largest export market last year.

Mexico is expected to emerge as Korea's major rival in exports of cars, electronic goods and semiconductors to the United States from five to ten years from now, government officials said.

Cars and trucks will have to have 62.5 percent locally-produced content and labor to qualify for duty-free status.

Tariffs, duties and other trade barriers will also be eliminated over five to 10 years, with tariffs on the most sensitive goods remaining in place for up to 15 years, according to the agreement announced by U.S. President George Bush Wednesday.

Slice of U.S. Market Shrinks First Six Months

SK1408021792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0153 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 14 (YONHAP)—Korea's slice of the U.S. market shrank in January-May to 3.1 percent of the country's imports, the Trade and Industry Ministry said Friday [14 August].

U.S. Commerce Department figures put Korea's exports to the United States for the first five months at 6.52 billion U.S. dollars, down from 3.5 percent of all exports to the nation in the same period last year, the ministry said.

China had exports to the U.S. market in the same months of 8.56 billion dollars, a rise in its market share from 3.9 percent to 4.1 percent.

Mexico, whose share is expected to soar under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), had exports of 13.93 billion dollars, up 0.3 percentage point from 6.4 percent last year.

Taiwan kept its 4.7-percent share with 9.64 billion dollars and singapore's exports to the U.S. were 4.21 billion dollars, retaining a 2-percent market share.

Hong Kong and Japan saw their shares decline 0.2 percentage point and 0.4 percentage point, respectively, according to the U.S. figures, the ministry said.

Minister Says Nation To Reassess Nuclear Policy

SK1408024692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0201 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 14 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea will reassess its inter-Korean nuclear negotiation policy next month based on the results of the inter-Korean Prime Ministerial talks and the board meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok said Friday [14 August].

Korea supports the idea of regular Asia-Pacific summits at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference in the long run, but is not ready to discuss it yet, he said.

"The next inter-Korean Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC) session opens Aug. 31. The next prime ministers' meeting is scheduled for Sept. 15, and the IAEA board meets from Sept. 16," he said. "We will set up our measures with these events in mind."

South and North Korea are negotiating a mutual nuclear inspection regime that would open up both civilian and military installations under suspicion. The talks have been stalled by North Korea's refusal to include military sites and to subject them to short-notice inspection.

North Korea's response at the next JNCC and prime ministers' talks will thus decide whether South Korea takes stronger international action or seeks a compromise.

On Japanese press reports that Australia and Japan hope to upgrade APEC participants for summits, Yi said it was too early to discuss the idea at the conference in Bangkok next month.

"Australia proposed the idea late last year. South Korea's position is that it supports the idea in the long run but that such summits should be realized after due time," Yi said.

ROK, U.S. Likely To Upgrade DPRK Contacts

SK1308140992 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 12 Aug 92 p 2

[Text] Relations between the South and the North are stalemated because of the nuclear issue. It was learned on 12 August that the government and the United States have discussed ways to make a breakthrough in resolving the nuclear issue by upgrading the level of official contact between the United States and North Korea before the issue of the North-South mutual nuclear inspection is settled. Consultations were held at the high-level ROK-U.S. consultative meetings, including the one between Kim Chong-hwi, senior adviser to the president on foreign and national security affairs, and high-ranking U.S. officials in charge of policy toward the North during Kim Chong-hwi's visit to the United States from the end of July through early August. It was also learned that the Unites States agreed that the two countries needed to coordinate the policy toward the North.

The United States and North Korea had 24 contacts as of 30 June at the level of political counselors of their embassies in Beijing. Although North Korea has persistently demanded that official contact be upgraded to the level above the vice minister, no progress has been made because of the U.S. precondition that "the nuclear issue be settled first."

A source in the government said: The need to create conditions for resolving the nuclear issue and to accelerate the process by accepting North Korea's call for the elevation of the contact has been broadly supported in the governments of the two countries.

He continued: It is the considerable alleviation of misgivings about North Korea's capability to produce nuclear weapons on the part of the governments of Korea and the United States following the inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency that have led the two countries to discuss such a thing. Helping the two governments make this decision was the belief that even though North Korea is not actively working out an inspection regime, it has not entirely ruled out the inspection itself.

The same government official added: The government explained to the United States that the recent visit to Seoul by Kim Tal-hyon, vice premier of North Korea's State Administration Council, and the planned visit to Nampo by Deputy Premier Choe Kak-kyu and a fact-finding team do not run counter to the core of ROK-U.S. policy—"settlement of the nuclear issue takes precedence over economic cooperation"—and informed the United States of its plan to send the deputy premier and the fact-finding team to Nampo as scheduled. The United States is reported to have expressed its understanding.

Joint Military Exercise Scheduled for 19-30 Aug

SK1308095192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0916 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 13 (YONHAP)—This year's "joint Korea-U.S. combined Eulji-Focus Lens exercise" will be held in Aug. 19-30 and a joint amphibious maneuver will separately take place in the East Sea Sept. 1-5, it was jointly announced Thursday [13 August] by the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command.

The 17th Focus Lens training will be participated by some 14,000 American troops, including about 4,000 to be deployed from the U.S. continent, in addition to a substantial number of Korean forces.

Besides, a U.S. Navy landing command ship, Blue Ridge, will take part and a Patriot missile battery will be deployed at the Suwon Air Force Base during the training period.

In an unusual joint press conference at the Defense Ministry, spokesmen for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Combined Forces Command said, "Although the Focus Lens training is a pure command post exercise, we have notified North Korea of the training through a diplomatic channel with a view to eliminating beforehand any ground for misunderstanding on the part of North Korea."

On the extent of the South Korean forces' participation, the spokesman for the Joint Chiefs of Staff said the participation scope has been narrowed to corps and higher commands from the division and higher commands.

The spokesmen said that the Combined Forces Command will make public the process of demonstrative operation of Patriot missiles and Blue Ridge.

Regarding the amphibious training, the spokesman for the Joint Chiefs of Staff said it would be regimental-level training which will be participated by a U.S. Marine battalion in addition to South Korean landing forces.

Economic Ties With Japan 'Go From Bad to Worse'

SK1408102992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0600 GMT 14 Aug 92

[By Pak Se-chin]

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 14 (YONHAP)—Each year economic relations between South Korea and Japan go from bad to worse because of their incessant bickering over technology transfer and problems rooted in their bitter past.

Korea became independent on Aug. 15, 1945, after 36 years as a colony of Japan. It was then embroiled in a brutal war between the southern and northern halves from which it emerged totally impoverished.

While Korea struggled just to feed itself for the next dozen years, Japan single-mindedly set about the task of recovering from its defeat in World War II.

Over the ensuing years, the two neighbors have built up a huge trade imbalance that only gets bigger and creates friction between the old adversaries. Koreans accuse Japan of deliberately refusing to reduce the trade gap by giving them its technologies and knowhow, but the Japanese complain that Korea is asking for it to give away its secrets. [sentence as received]

Cooperative ties between the two countries appear elusive despite their action plan to set up a foundation for scientific and technological cooperation.

The plan, agreed on in June, is based on an agreement during summit between Korean President No Tae-u and Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in Seoul early this year.

Korea originally hoped for a 200 million-dollar foundation set up in Tokyo, rather than one in each country, with Japan paying 75 percent of the costs.

But Japan only agreed that foundations should be established separately in each country by the end of this year by the private sector with 1 billion yen (7.86 million dollars) provided by each side.

From Korea's viewpoint, the action plan is designed to solve its trade deficit with Japan and so the Koreans feel miffed by what they see as Japanese reluctance to solve the problem. The surplus raked in by Japan in its trade with Korea was 8.79 billion U.S. dollars last year, up from 5.93 billion dollars in 1990 and 3.99 billion dollars in 1989. Another ocean of red ink is assured this year.

The deficit totals 66.1 billion dollars for the 27 years since the two countries normalized diplomatic relations in 1965.

While many people see this as unhealthy, Japan says that as the trade imbalance centers on capital and raw material goods it contributes to Korea's economic growth.

Such drastic differences make economic cooperation almost impossible.

Korea says it wants to solve the imbalance by reorganizing the industrial structures of both Korea and Japan. It says the issue is not about trade but industrial patterns, and warns that the trade deficit is a stumbling block to the positive development of the Korea-Japan ties.

Seoul's basic stand is that Japan should not try to have superiority over Korea in all industries and Tokyo has to reduce the trade deficit by lowering its tariffs on imports from Korea except capital goods and ultramodern products.

Tokyo says that Japan's annual trade surplus of 100 billion dollars or some 3 percent of its gross national product, is not so big in light of its economic size and that the problem of Korea-Japan trade imbalance should be solved in a global context not as a bilateral issue.

Korea is demanding government-to-government technology transfer from Japan, saying industrial technological cooperation can't be accomplished by profit-motivated enterprises.

Japan responds that technology transfer should be a private sector matter and that Korea is asking for sophisticated skills that can't be transferred.

Unhappily for both of them, Korea and Japan are estranged at a time when Asia most needs to be united to react to the blocs that are being formed in North America and Europe.

While it would be nice if Japan changed its way of thinking about the trade imbalance and technology transfers, Korea might be better off exploring the Japanese market and narrowing the technology gap on its own instead of waiting for Japan to do it for it.

For every 1 billion dollars of Korean exports to the U.S. market, 120 million dollars of imports from Japan are generated, and each 1 billion dollars of investment brings 160 million dollars of imports, according to the world bank.

To lower these figures, Korea needs to localize machinery, parts and other major Japanese imports and acquire advanced skills from Japan by establishing research institutes there and inviting technicians from the country.

Trade Official Meets Heilongjiang Vice Governor

SK1008050192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0447 GMT 10 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 10 (YONHAP)—South Korean Vice Trade and Industry Minister Pak Yong-to met with Du Xianzhong, vice governor of China's Heilongjiang Province, Monday [10 August] morning and the two discussed bilateral economic ties, ministry officials said.

The vice governor of the northeast province arrived with a delegation Friday on a 10-day visit at the invitation of Dairyuk Development Co. in hope of attracting Korean investors, they said.

More Funds Planned for Developing Countries

SK1308134492 Seoul YONHAP in English 1030 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 13 (YONHAP)—The government has decided to contribute more funds to the International Finance Corp. (IFC) and the Asian Development Fund (ADF) as a means of expanding financial cooperation with low-income developing countries.

An official at the Finance Ministry said Thursday 6,933,000 dollars will be additionally contributed to the IFC and 15 million dollars to the ADF.

With the contributions, Korea's shares in the funds of the IFC and ADF have come to be increased to 0.69 and 0.36 percent, respectively.

The additional commitment to the IFC will be paid over five years beginning 1993 and that to the ADF in four years through 1995.

Russia Urged To Improve Rights of North Koreans

SK1408024492 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 14 Aug 92 p 2

[Text] Kim Yong-sam, the ruling party's executive chairman and presidential candidate, yesterday called on Russia to try to help improve the rights of North Koreans there, a party spokesman said.

Meeting Sergey A. Kovalov, chairman of the Human Rights Committee of the Supreme Soviet Russian Federation, at his office, Kim described as "shameful" Pyongyang's alleged violations of rights of many North Koreans.

According to the spokesman, Kovalov charged in a U.N. meeting in Geneva in February that North Korean workers in Siberia and students in other Russian areas are "slaves."

Kim said he was alarmed at Kovalov's report that their passports were confiscated by the Pyongyang government.

Yeltsin Urged To Close North Korean Camps

SK1008124792 Seoul YONHAP in English 1133 GMT 10 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 10 (YONHAP)—The International Human Rights League of Korea flashed a message to Russian President Boris Yeltsin Monday [10 August] asking him to close down the Siberian logging yards manned exclusively by North Korean political prisoners.

The league sent similar messages to the Amnesty International and other world human rights organizations.

In the message to Yeltsin, the league said it was deeply saddened to learn through press reports that some 20,000 North Korean political prisoners were put to forced work at logging yards operated by North Korea in Siberia.

The message urged President Yeltsin to see to it that the logging yards be closed down at an early date in the spirit of respecting human rights.

The pitiful conditions of the North Korea-operated logging yards were known to the world through reports by the British ITN radio and some other press last May.

Kim Chong-il Likely To Attend Nonaligned Summit

SK1408061692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0243 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 14 (YONHAP)—Kim Chong-il, son and heir-apparent of North Korean President Kim Il-song, is likely to attend the 10th summit meeting of nonaligned countries scheduled to be held in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta in early September, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN reported Friday [14 August].

NIKKEI, quoting a source involved in the summit preparations, said the junior Kim was expected to arrive in Jakarta on Sept. 1 to attend the meeting in lieu of his father.

The Indonesian Government takes the attendance of Kim Chong-il as a fait accompli and is preparing for it, but is abstaining from commenting on it, the source, who refused to be identified, said.

By attending the summit, Kim Chong-il seems to intend to let the outside world know him as the indisputable successor to Kim Il-song, NIKKEI said.

His visit to Jakarta will mark his first trip to a non-communist country, the paper said.

Indonesian Vice President Sudharmono visited Pyongyang last April and asked Kim Il-song to attend the meeting. Kim said at that time that he would attend it if his health permitted him to, NIKKEI said quoting diplomatic sources.

A special presidential envoy of Indonesia recently delivered an official invitation to the summit to North Korea and consultations on Kim Chong-il's attendance were in the final stage in Pyongyang.

North Korea, in a big shift from attacking Indonesia for tilting toward the West, supported its bid to play host to the 10th summit in a nonaligned foreign ministers meeting in Ghana in September last year.

President Calls on Parties To Normalize Assembly

SK1308134692 Seoul YONHAP in English 1026 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 13 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u called on major political parties Thursday [13 August] to exert continued efforts to normalize the National Assembly.

While talking with Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, at their weekly Chongwadae meeting, the president said the DLP should take the lead in bringing to normalcy the National Assembly which he said fails to function properly for three months after it legally set sail.

"At this time when our youths excelled at the Olympics and our scientists launched our own satellite, politicians, to my regret, seem unable to keep pace with them," No said.

After the meeting, Kim Chong-kwon, Chongwadae senior secretary for political affairs, said Kim Yong-sam suggested to scale down consumptive spending and instead expand credits for small industries in formulating next year's state budget.

Kim also asked the president to see to it that public officials' salaries be increased next year with emphasis on lower graders and the government's purchasing price of this year's rice crops be determined at a level that can fully compensate for farmers' "sweat," the secretary said.

He said the No-Kim meeting did not touch the issue of whether to postpone the selection of a second mobile communications project undertaker until a later date.

Pact Reached on Financing Political Campaigns

SK1408030692 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 14 Aug 92 p 2

[By staff reporter Choe Sang-hun]

[Text] An agreement by three top political leaders to draw on the state coffers to finance their presidential campaigns is raising controversy.

Kim Yong-sam of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and two opposition leaders struck the accord Wednesday [12 August] opening the way for themselves to use more taxpayers' money.

Facing unexpected criticism from the media, the ruling party tried to pass the buck to opposition leader Kim Tae-chung yesterday.

A high-placed ruling party official said the opposition leader twisted Kim Yong-sam's arm to elicit the agreement during the Wednesday meeting.

Kim Tae-chung himself came out to defend the decision, saying that it is fair for his cash-strapped Democratic Party to demand more government subsidies to contest the costly presidential election in mid-December.

He contended that there has been, and will be, no political compromise concerning his party's position on the timing of local polls.

The two Kims and tycoon-turned-political leader Chong Chu-yong invited criticism when they agreed Wednesday to "take legal steps for all parliamentary negotiating blocs to secure the official campaign funds."

This was generally understood as meaning that the party leaders intend to bend the law to make their presidential campaign state-funded.

It is hard to sell such a notion to taxpayers at a time when politicians command little respect from the public.

What makes the decision more controversial is that it discriminates against independents and candidates of smaller parties.

To form a parliamentary negotiating bloc, a political group needs to secure at least 20 seats in the National Assembly. Only the three largest parties meet the qualification.

Critics noted that the three presidential candidates were too eager to line their pockets with taxpayers' money while neglecting other urgent issues. The leaders have made virtually no headway in their negotiations over key political issues including the timing of local polls, blocking parliamentary action on urgent public concerns like inflation and political corruption.

Rumors were flying that the three might have made compromises in the process of reaching the agreement. The circumstances support the rumors. As far as money and organization are concerned, Kim Yong-sam enjoys privileges as the ruling party candidate, while Kim Tae-chung badly needs financial resources to keep his campaign rolling in the costly election game. Tycoon Chong is rich enough to bankroll his own campaign.

A small party and independents may dispute Wednesday's decision in the Constitutional Court.

A special parliamentary committee goes to work to revise the laws governing political funds. But the mounting criticism is adding complexity to negotiations.

DLP Secretary-General Kim Yong-ku said the controversial agreement does not mean that all of the official campaign funds will be provided by the state.

DP leader Kim Tae-chung said the agreement was meant to provide the necessary campaign funds for an opposition party which is virtually denied access to donations from big companies.

During the 1987 presidential election, a candidate was allowed to spend up to 13.9 billion won ($17.8 million). But there were no government subsidies for campaign funds.

Considering inflation, the amount for this year is expected to amount to more than 20 billion won ($25.6 million). The Central Election Management Committee (CEMC) will announce the official campaign fund ceiling shortly after announcing the election date.

Political parties collect political funds through three official channels—support organizations, political donations and government subsidies.

A political party is entitled to collect up to $3.9 million annually and the amount doubles in an election year. Political donations are entrusted to the CEMC, which distributes them among parties.

Political parties passed a bill late last year increasing their annual government subsidies to 600 won (nearly 77 cents) per voter. An additional government subsidy—300 won per voter—is provided in major elections. Eligible voters number roughly 29 million, according to CEMC figures—that means political parties receive a total of 8.7 billion won ($11 million) from the state treasury for their presidential campaign this year.

The three major parties are suspected of trying to revise the laws again to increase that election-time subsidy.

Spearheading the move is the cash-strapped Democratic Party, which wants to secure as much in government subsidies as possible.

Elections here have traditionally been a costly business, with parties mobilizing campaign funds far exceeding the official limits. The opposition party says increased government subsidies would help make the election fair because, unlike the ruling party, it can not secure campaign funds easily.

President No Cited on DLP Executive Chairman

SK1408033592 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 14 Aug 92 p 2

[Text] President No Tae-u and Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman and presidential candidate of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], yesterday confirmed that co-chairman Kim Chong-pil will take up the post of executive chairman after Kim Yong-sam is elected party president on Aug. 28.

The DLP plans to elect presidential candidate Kim to succeed No as party president in the Standing Committee.

In their weekly meeting after a two-week break, No and Kim also made it clear the ruling camp's position that elections of heads of local governments would not be held within the year despite the opposition parties' strong objections.

The two leaders also discussed a wide range of state affairs with major emphasis on pending political questions which the party should negotiate with the opposition forces.

Confirming the firm policy not to accept the opposition call for the holding of elections of special city mayors and provincial governors within the year, No and Kim, instead, agreed that the DLP would reflect the opposition opinions to the greatest possible extent in rewriting the Presidential Election Law and the Political Funds Law, sources said.

The two also conferred on the thorny issue of selecting the undertaker of the lucrative second mobile telephone project with Kim allegedly asking that the selection be deferred until the next government settles in.

However, No and his government have maintained the solid stance that the contractor will be chosen next week as scheduled.

Kim and some DLP members have argued that the final selection should be deferred, pointing to rumors that No's relative by marriage, Choe Chong-hyon of the Sunkyong Group is sure to be given the covetous contract in the long run.

DP Not To Seek Impeachment of Top Officials

SK1408022592 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 14 Aug 92 p 2

[Text] The main opposition Democratic Party [DP] yesterday said it will not seek impeachment of top government officials as the rival parties have agreed to try to reach a compromise on the contentious local election issue.

DP floor leader Yi Chol said his party reversed its position because the leaders of three major parties agreed Wednesday [12 August] to form an ad hoc panel to resolve interparty differences over the timing of local polls and to amend the political fund and presidential election laws.

Last week the DP and the United People's Party decided to jointly submit a bill calling for impeachment of Prime Minister Chong Won-sik and a motion recommending that the Assembly impeach President No Tae-u for the government's refusal to hold local elections by the end of June.

DP Co-chairman Kim Tae-chung reportedly suggested reversal of this stand.

DLP To Push for 15% Percent Increase in Budget

SK1308122792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0811 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 13 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] decided Thursday [13 August] to press for a 15-percent hike in the budget for next year, instead of the 12 percent proposed by the government.

In a party policy meeting, the DLP also resolved to urge the government to increase the purchase price of rice 7 percent and to keep the purchase volume at 8.5 million som [Korean unit of measurement], or 43.52 million bushels.

The meeting was attended by party Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam, Hwang In-song, chairman of the Policy Committee, Kim Pong-ho, chairman of the National Assembly Budget and Accounts Committee, and So Sang-mok, director general of the office of Policy Coordination II.

So told reporters after the meeting that the DLP would recommend that the government slash fixed spending as much as possible and increase investment to revitalize the economy and sharpen international competitiveness.

"Our party has reached the conclusion that the country needs a budget expansion of 15 percent next year to push ahead with major projects, including special support for small- and medium-sized businesses and farming and fishing villages," So said.

The party projects the increase in tax revenue at 15 percent, compared to the government's estimation of around 13 percent.

Many factors were pushing up defense spending, including programs to improve working conditions in the military, So said.

"However, we shall urge the government to set defense spending at this year's level by reducing fixed expenditures as much as possible," he said.

Kim Yong-sam ordered the party to take full account in the budget of assistance programs for farmers, fishermen, and owners of small- and medium-sized businesses.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Urges Islamic Countries To Help Bosnia

BK1408042892 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0340 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Aug 14 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Islamic countries should do more to help bring relief to Bosnian Muslims who are the victims of atrocities, Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said.

"It will be dissapointing if Islamic nations allowed Muslims in Bosnia to be brutally murdered while non-Muslims are prepared to come forward and help, he told a news conference Thursday.

He was asked to comment on suggestions that Malaysia push for a special meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) for members to adopt a common stand on the problem.

Malaysian on Wednesday cut diplomatic relations with Yugoslavia, the first country to do so in protest against the atrocities on Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Dr. Mahathir said Malaysia could only urge other Islamic nations to act against Yugoslavia.

"We have set aside some money and have sent as much as we can afford but Islamic countries must do more (for the Muslims in Bosnia)," he said.

On the status of the Yugoslav Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Dr. Mahathir said "the staff of the embassy will have to leave while for those business people involved in contracts, we will have to see the legal requirement ... what is the legal status, whether they should be allowed to continue with their business or contract."

As for those not working in the country, he said that so long as they had valid travel documents, it did not mean that Yugoslavs could not be in the country.

Replying to a question on what would be Malaysia's stand if Serbia attended the summit of the Nonaligned Movement in Jakarta early next month, Dr. Mahathir said Malaysia did not recognise Serbia as the successor state of Yugoslavia.

Minister Announces New Task Force for Bosnia

BK1408052092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0350 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Aug 14 (OANA-BERNAMA)—A task force has been set up to coordinate collection of donations for the Bosnia-Hercegovina refugees fund, Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Thursday.

He said it would help the public to donate to the Bosnians in a proper manner and to avoid any unauthorised people from collecting money for the fund set up in aid of Bosnians now facing atrocities from the Serbs in the former Yugoslav state.

"The public must inform the Foreign Ministry for any projects or activities meant to help the Bosnians and call the task force for any queries," he told reporters here at a presentation of cheque ceremony for the fund.

Also present was the head of the Bosnian Muslim Charitable Society, Dr. Izet Aganovic.

Dr. Aganovic expressed his gratitude to the Malaysian Government and people for their full support and interest in the Bosnia-Hercegovina civil war.

He said Malaysia was the first predominantly Muslim country to give its political support and sever diplomatic ties with Yugoslavia for its role in fuelling the civil war in Bosnia.

Dr. Aganovic said other countries should follow Malaysia's step to protest against Belgrade's role in the "horrific situation" in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

More than 8,000 people have been killed since the Serbs rebelled against an overwhelming Croat and Muslim vote for Bosnian secession in March. Muslims make up 43 percent of Bosnia's 4.3 million people, Serbs 31 percent, and Croats 17 percent.

He said international aid so far was not sufficient to help all the war victims and refugees, adding that it came up to only 10 percent of what they needed in medicine, food and basic needs.

To help the Muslim population, he said, the Bosnian Government had set up villages to relocate the war victims at the border, at a safe distance from the Serb attacks.

These villages would be sponsored by donating countries and would be named after the respective countries. At present, Saudi Arabia has sponsored a village of 20,000 war victims, Kuwait (5,000), and United Arab Emirates (5,000). He said that he had already proposed to Abdullah for Malaysia to sponsor one such village.

Deputy Premier Urges OIC To Discuss Bosnia

BK1408081292 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Malaysia has called on the Organization of Islamic Conference, OIC, to convene a meeting to discuss the atrocities in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba said the oil-rich member countries of the OIC must participate in efforts to help the Muslims who have been brutally murdered by the Serbs. He also called on developed countries to offer assistance to the victims.

Speaking to newsmen in Kuala Lumpur, Mr. Ghafar said the United Nations should not restrict itself to sending food, but try to stop the atrocities as well.

Foreign Minister on NAM Leadership Transfer

BK1308135492 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] Indonesia is preparing to take over the leadership of the Nonaligned Movement, NAM, Coordinating Bureau in New York and the chairmanship of NAM from the former Yugoslavia. Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Badawi was informed by the NAM bureau today that Indonesia was preparing to chair and lead the movement whose heads of state and government are scheduled to meet in Jakarta early next month. He said the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, SFRY, had broken up and the present Yugoslavia comprising Serbia and Montenegro could not replace the former Yugoslavia as NAM chairman.

Datuk Abdullah said this to reporters after receiving a check for 80,000 ringgit from Perkim [Malaysian Islamic Welfare Organization] ladies of Sarawak and the Association of the Sarawak Ministers' Wives at his office today. The check for the Bosnian [words indistinct] was presented by Puan Sri Hajjah Laila Taib, wife of the Sarawak chief minister.

In the past few weeks, Malaysia had repeatedly pressed for NAM's chairmanship to be transferred to Indonesia. He said Malaysia had never regarded the present Yugoslavia as the successor state of the former SFRY and, thus, it had no right to lead NAM. Datuk Abdullah pointed out Yugoslavia had also lost its status to attend the NAM summit in Jakarta which will be preceded by the meeting of officials and foreign ministers from 28 August. He also expressed his confidence that Malaysia's point of view would be shared by other NAM members.

PRC Vice Premier Leaves Penang for Singapore

BK1408091892 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Chinese Vice Premier Yao Yilin left Penang for Singapore today after a two-day visit to the state. He was seen off by State Minister Dr. Koh Tsu Koon and other dignitaries. Mr. Yao had led the 23-member delegation on a five-day visit to Malaysia. Dr. Koh expressed the hope that private sector would take follow-up actions to implement the cooperation proposed at meetings held between the Chinese delegation and Malaysian leaders.

Japanese Firms Said To Deny Malaysians Top Jobs

BK1208085592 Hong Kong AFP in English 0303 GMT 12 Aug 92

[By P. Parameswaran]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Aug 12 (AFP)—Malaysians, having played host to Japanese multinationals for more than a decade, are protesting at what they see as a conservative Japanese business philosophy that keeps them out of top jobs. Political and business leaders say none of the 846 Japanese companies in Malaysia has a single Malaysian in a top position, unlike U.S. and European corporations, several of which have Malaysians as their chief local executives.

Japanese officials cite the language barrier as the main stumbling block, saying that most job manuals were still in Japanese.

"Very few Japanese managers in Tokyo speak English and the language of communication is still predominantly Japanese when compared with European and American companies," said Joe Shohtoku, a director of the Japanese Chamber of Trade and Industry in Malaysia (JACTIM). But, he admitted, "As a general rule, I agree that more efforts should be made to develop and promote Malaysian human resources to senior management positions, especially Japanese companies which have been in Malaysia for more than two decades."

Many Malaysians agree that changes are overdue.

"The language problem is now history. The Japanese cannot use this anymore to deny us our rightful share of the benefits of collaboration," charged Jamaluddin Jarjis, head of the economic bureau of the powerful United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) youth wing. UMNO, the dominant partner in Malaysia's ruling National Front coalition government, is headed by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who was the driving force behind the influx of Japanese investment into Malaysia.

Mahathir's 1983 "Look East" policy encouraged Malaysians to emulate the work ethic of the Japanese, whose Malaysian investments more than quadrupled from 286 million U.S. dollars in 1987 to 1.26 billion last year. Japan ranks as the second largest foreign investor in Malaysia after Taiwan. A majority of the Japanese investments are in the manufacturing sector, the growth engine of Malaysia's booming export-oriented economy.

Jamaluddin said Japanese companies should emulate European and U.S. companies which not only employ and promote many Malaysians into senior management and technical positions, but also accept them as important components of their international operations.

Shohtoku, a managing director of the Matsushita Air Conditioning Group of Companies, said his firm has drawn up a definititive plan to engage key Malaysian managers.

"We are aggressively pursuing the goal of appointing local plant managers by 1993 and a Malaysian managing director by 2000," said Shohtoku, who suggested that newly established companies be given a "grace" period for management localisation. Top Malaysian and Japanese private sector representatives recently held talks for the first time to study ways to hire Malaysians for key positions in Japanese businesses here.

Analysts, however, warn that Malaysia is protesting at the wrong time, with global investments being cut back and investors increasingly finding Vietnam and China, where wages are lower, better investment destinations.

Malaysia, already facing labour shortages, rising labour costs and infrastructure bottlenecks, might find itself sidelined by foreign investors, they warned.

"Rather than wield the big stick on the Japanese, moral suasion would sound a more reasonable approach," said Mohamed Ariff, dean of the University of Malaya's economics faculty.

Cambodia

Ranariddh Pledges To Cooperate With UNTAC

BK1408020492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 2300 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] Prince Norodom Ranariddh, chairman of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party, member of the Supreme National Council, and supreme commander and commander in chief of the National Army of Independent Cambodia [NAIC], said the FUNCINPEC party and NAIC would sincerely cooperate with the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia—called UNTAC—during this transitional period. The prince made this statement at the NAIC headquarters at Rum Chang Village in Oddar Meanchey Province to an UNTAC delegation, which began to visit regions controlled by FUNCINPEC and NAIC on 11 August.

The UNTAC delegation led by Roger Lawrence was to survey the general situation in the regions and to understand FUNCINPEC's civilian administrative as well as financial, social, and health structures.

At a ceremony to welcome the UNTAC delegation, Prince Norodom Ranariddh said he wanted to have the 23 October 1991 accord implemented in its entirety in Cambodia. He stressed, however, that all parties had to sincerely and correctly abide by the accord.

Taking the floor, Roger Lawrence said he himself as well as the delegation was pleased with the warmest reception hosted by FUNCINPEC leadership under the chairmanship of Prince Norodom Ranariddh, adding that the visit was to become acquainted with the general economic situation in the regions with a view to assisting UNTAC in providing development aid.

FUNCINPEC and NAIC are controlling a number of regions in Oddar Meanchey, Siem Reap, Battambang, Kompong Thom, and Kompong Cham Provinces.

Defense Communique on Temporary Demobilization

BK1408063392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 14 Aug 92

["Communique of the State of Cambodia's Defense Ministry"; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] With goodwill for achieving genuine peace and national reunification and to allow the Cambodian people to choose their destiny themselves, the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] have, at all times, exhibited fortitude by firmly respecting the cease-fire and closely cooperating with UNAMIC [UN Advance Mission in Cambodia], UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], and troops of the parties which are executing the accord by correctly implementing the principle and measures introduced by UNTAC with the aim of accelerating and promoting the peace process in Cambodia. Indeed, in the second phase of the cease-fire, the CPAF party has volunteered to regroup 12,737 troops of its three armed forces with 9,687 assorted arms under UNTAC supervision.

Implementing the spirit and consensus of the 24 July meeting of the first-level Mixed Military Working Group, the State of Cambodia's Defense Ministry will soon authorize a number of CPAF's officers and rank and file who continue to regroup and those who have already regrouped in cantonments to temporarily return to civil life so that they can assist their families in various localities until UNTAC officially announces the demobilization. The Defense Ministry, however, will summon those officers and soldiers back to their cantonments to enable UNTAC to dismiss them officially and to grant them privileges and other benefits given by the United Nations. The temporary demobilization will be applied from 15 August 1992 to 25 August 1992.

The SOC [the State of Cambodia] party wishes to call on the party that has not yet executed the Paris peace accord to urgently join the regrouping process in order to join forces to bring about genuine peace for our Cambodian motherland.

The SOC Defense Ministry wishes to invite observers and national and international reporters to witness those important events.

Japanese UN Troop Fact-Finding Mission Arrives

OW1208130692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1212 GMT 12 Aug 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Aug. 12 KYODO—A second Japanese fact-finding mission arrived in Phnom Penh on Wednesday to prepare for Japan's participation in U.N. peacekeeping operations.

The 20-member mission, consisting mainly of Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel, visited Yasushi Akashi, head of the U.N. Transitional Authority on

Cambodia (UNTAC), and Lt. Gen. John Sanderson, military commander of UNTAC.

Officials of Ground, Maritime and Air Self-Defense Forces visited UNTAC officials in charge of logistics, personnel, public relations and maneuvers.

The mission led by Jiro Hagi, deputy chief of Japan's headquarters for implementing the newly enacted U.N. Peacekeeping Cooperation Law, will investigate the no. 2 and no. 3 national roads south of Phnom Penh. The SDF's facility corps is expected to be sent in late October to repair damage to roads and bridges.

Meets French UN Peacekeepers

OW1308124892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1201 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Aug. 13 KYODO—A Japanese fact-finding mission Thursday observed the activities of French peacekeepers at an airport on the outskirts of Phnom Penh.

The mission is to prepare for Japan's participation in the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Cambodia. The mission, which arrived in Phnom Penh on Wednesday, was divided into five teams to investigate conditions at airports and harbor facilities, and to observe medical and transportation operations.

At Pochentong airport, officers of the air Self-Defense Force heard from French Air Force personnel about the condition of the runway, procedures to control airplanes and the assistance needed at the airport.

Officers of the ground Self-Defense Force watched engineering troops repairing roads and bridges for the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) in preparation for patrols on the No. 2 and No. 3 national roads south of Phnom Penh beginning Saturday.

The mission, led by Jiro Hagi, deputy chief of Japan's task force for the recently enacted UN peacekeeping cooperation law, consists chiefly of Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel.

Hagi said Wednesday Japan will send advance teams of 20 SDF men in mid-September, 100 in late September, and the remainder by early October.

Japan plans to send 600 troops to war-devastated Cambodia for road and bridge repair work.

Japanese Government Efforts for Peace Viewed

BK1308015392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Aug 92 p A6

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] Japan is accelerating its diplomatic efforts to end the current deadlock in Cambodia over the United Nations-brokered peace plan to ensure that the dispatch of its peace-keeping troops to Cambodia in October will not violate Japan's Constitution.

Tokyo's current priority is to convince the Khmer Rouge to disarm as soon as possible and rejoin the peace plan.

Bangkok-based diplomats and analysts said failure to persuade the Khmer Rouge at this crucial point could jeopardize the Japanese Government's plan to play an active role in Cambodia's peace-keeping operation. Japan's on-going and future effort to reconstruct and rehabilitate Cambodia could also be hampered.

Japan has been trying for weeks to hold discussions with the top-ranking officials of the Khmer Rouge. Tokyo recently asked Bangkok to arrange a meeting with Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan.

Tadashi Ikeda, director general of the Asian Affairs Bureau, was scheduled to come to Bangkok this week to hold talks with Khieu Samphan. But he has delayed his trip as Khieu Samphan failed to respond positively to the proposed meeting.

According to the Foreign Ministry officials, the Khmer Rouge has been holding "important" meetings to discuss the Cambodian situation, especially the peace plan and the outcome of Khieu's recent discussion with Thailand and China.

"After the meetings, the Khmer Rouge's position will be clearer," said one of the sources.

Japan's flurry of diplomatic activities on Cambodia began in early June before the Tokyo conference to reconstruct Cambodia. Japan successfully convinced the Khmer Rouge to attend the conference but failed to break the deadlock on the implementation of the peace agreement.

After the law authorizing the dispatch of Japanese defence forces overseas for UN-sponsored peace operations was passed last month, Tokyo hoped that the dispatch of its peace troops would be possible within a few months.

Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa is especially hopeful. Fresh from the current election victory, Miyazawa wants to strike while the iron is hot by proceeding with the overseas deployment of Japanese forces as soon as possible. Japan is considering sending between 500 and 700 army personnels to Cambodia. But given the controversial nature of the peacekeeping law and of Japanese military personnel's safety in a foreign land, the government has to move cautiously.

Apparently, Tokyo realizes that as long as the Khmer Rouge guerrillas are still heavily armed, Japanese troops with the UN operations in Cambodia could be in danger. Subsequently, Miyazawa came out and assured the Japanese public that Japan would not send any troops to Cambodia if the Khmer Rouge do not first observe the ceasefire and disarm.

While waiting for the Khmer Rouge's decision, Tokyo decided to go ahead with the dispatch of its second factfinding mission to Cambodia to assess the situation and survey the terrain for which Japanese peace-keeping troops would be responsible.

Since mid-June, the Khmer Rouge have refused to disarm while other Cambodian factions voluntarily joined the second phase of the Paris peace accord which called for cantonment, disarmament and demobilization.

At the Tokyo conference, Japanese officials along with Phnom Penh-based diplomats tabled a proposal, commonly known as a "non-paper", during an expanded meeting between the Cambodian factions and representatives of other concerned countries, calling for the establishment of a consultative mechanism to improve the efficiency of Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC).

But the idea has received a cool response from all Cambodian parties.

The Khmer Rouge have contended all along that the SNC is not powerful enough to rule war-torn Cambodia and is under the control of the Phnom Penh govemment. The Khmer Rouge want a new joint commission to oversee the policy-making process in Cambodia and the dismantling of the Phnom Penh government.

Phnom Penh immediately shot down the Khmer Rouge's suggestion and called for international sanctions to punish the Khmer Rouge for their intransigence. To break the current impasse, Tokyo broached an initiative based on the "non-paper" by calling for the establishment of an "administrative consultative body", or ACB, which will be used as a forum for dialogue between the four Cambodian factions before the SNC and the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) take up a decision.

Japan's idea is aimed at responding to the Khmer Rouge's demand for a more powerful SNC but at the same time falls short of calling for dismantling the Phnom Penh government. Under the Paris peace agreement signed last October, the Phnom Penh administrative structure will still exist.

When Parliamentary Vice Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa attended the ASEAN meeting in Manila last month, he discussed Japan's initiative with the ASEAN foreign ministers.

It was at a bilateral meeting with Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin that Miyazawa expressed Japan's desire to meet with the Khmer Rouge leaders, Pol Pot and Ieng Sary. These two men are considered to be the most powerful in the guerrilla faction, which was responsible for the massacre of over a million Cambodians during their reign of horror in 1975-78.

Japan's eagerness to move the peace process ahead would need strong backing from both Thailand and China, fervent supporters of the Khmer Rouge. During Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Xu Dunxin's visit to Bangkok, he lent cautious support to Japan's idea, saying that it is a possible solution that would need the support of all Cambodian factions.

Apart from the Japanese effort, Thailand and China are now working together to persuade the Khmer Rouge to comply with the peace accord. After months of hibernation, China and Thailand have woken to the need to bring the Khmer Rouge to cooperate with UNTAC. Eventually, whether the proposal to set up the ACB will be accepted by the Khmer Rouge depends very much on the Khmer Rouge's new attitude toward Japan. It is no secret that the Khmer Rouge leaders have considered Japan more sympathetic toward Phnom Penh than toward any other Cambodian resistance group.

Over the past three years, Tokyo has already provided more than US$20 million worth of humanitarian aid to Cambodia, with the bulk of it going to the Phnom Penh government. The Khmer Rouge received no direct Japanese aid at all. The recent US$880 million package of aid promised by the international community could be channelled to the Khmer Rouge if they cooperate with Untac.

In a matter of days, Japan will find out if its last-ditch endeavour to end the current stalemate in the Cambodian peace process will be successful. If not, then it may have to delay its long-held plan to take a higher political and security profile in Cambodia.

Khmer Rouge Said Facing Difficulty Finding Food

BK1308131192 Hong Kong AFP in English 1148 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] Koh Kong, Cambodia, Aug 13 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge guerrillas in parts of southern Cambodia are more preoccupied with the increasingly difficult task of eating than with making war, the U.N. peacekeeper in charge of the coastal Cambodia said Thursday.

Colonel Erick Ivastorza, the French commander of U.N. peacekeepers posted along the coast, said forays by his troops into the Khmer Rouge-controlled "Infernal Triangle" north of the city of Kep found that about half of the Khmer Rouge forces are under 15 years of age.

A lot of them defect for "sentimental reasons," he said.

Rather than planning attacks, the Khmer Rouge are preoccupied with how to get enough food to eat in their mountain hideouts.

Once a Khmer Rouge local commander asked U.N. peacekeepers for safe escort to a Phnom Penh government-controlled market in order to buy four litres of gasoline, he said.

"Their major occupation is survival," Ivastorza said.

No more than 250 Khmer Rouge occupy the zone, and UNTAC has offered them protection should they want to lay down their weapons without authorization from their leaders, he said.

The colonel was giving a report to U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) chief Yasushi Akashi, who went to the city of Koh Kong near the border with Thailand to open UNTAC's provincial headquarters.

"We have encountered some resistance from one of the factions, but I am confident we will overcome this as well as any other difficulty," Akashi said at a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Koh Kong, a port sitting on a river leading to the Gulf of Thailand, is filled with goods smuggled from Thailand.

Ivastorza said the Khmer Rouge could not possibly be traveling to their headquarters around Pailin in western Cambodia because it would take three months to make the journey on foot.

Instead, the guerrillas were probably travelling to Phnom Penh to get instructions there, he said.

Only 400 Phnom Penh government troops have turned in their weapons at one location in the sector.

"Banditry and politcal terrorism are staying at a high level," he said.

Rather than disarming and demobilizing troops as called for in the peace accords ending the civil war, UNTAC soldiers are helping local forces to rebuild roads.

In addition, they are making regular patrols to meet the Cambodian population and explain to them UNTAC's mission.

"The population doesn't know what UNTAC is," Ivastorza told Akashi.

Indonesia

Minister Views New North American Trade Bloc

BK1308121192 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1044 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] Jakarta, 13 Aug (OANA/ANTARA)—The Indonesian Government hopes that the establishement of the North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA) would ensure free trade activities in the region and other parts of the world, Junior Minister of Trade J. Sudrajat Jiwandono said here on Thursday.

We hope that NAFTA would realize free trade in the region which eventually generate free trade in other parts of the world, the minister said after opening a coffee time trade workshop organized by the Indonesian Coffee Exporters Association (AEKI).

Sudrajad said that Indonesia supports a free and open trade system because this system will increase the competitive edge of export commodities.

The three members of the NAFTA which consist of the United States, Canada, and Mexico announced on Wednesday the coming into effect of the regional trading area. The region is the biggest market in the world with a population of 360 million.

Earlier, when holding a briefing with directors of state-owned companies on the result of the fourth ASEAN summit, the minister said that the enforcement of NAFTA colours the issue of free trade area which frees its memebers from trade barriers. However, he added, it is feared that it would increase protectionism and hamper goods from non-member countries.

He said that the formation of NAFTA could make progress only if its member countries increase cooperation.

The minister expressed concern over the formation of a free trade whose member countries would only think of their own interest and discriminating non-member states.

Alatas Optimistic About Nonaligned Leadership

BK1408061692 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0431 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Jakarta, Aug 14 (OANA-ANTARA)—Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Alatas expressed his optimism here that the transfer of Nonaligned Movement (NAM) leadership would be realized before the NAM summit meeting from 1 to 6 September started.

"After we took some approaches, including with Yugoslavia, I am optimistic that the leadership transfer from Yugoslavia to Indonesia will be realized before the NAM ministerial meeting preceding its summit take place," Minister Alatas said.

He was speaking to members of the House of Representatives's Commission I, in charge of foreign affairs, defence and security and information, who was making a working visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with its Deputy Chairman Theo L. Sambuaga.

Alatas was reluctant to give further details on Indonesia's efforts to tackle the problem, but he said that Indonesia had taken the best step acceptable to all sides.

The issue of leadership transfer emerged after a threat by some of NAM member countries to walk out during the summit meeting, if the transfer of NAM leadership was not realized before the summit meeting.

Alatas pointed out that in solving a growing problem, Indonesia has always tried to consider the other countries' views and proposals and then find ways of solving that can be accepted by all sides.

"Indonesia has never disregarded any view and proposal, but as the problem varies in its nature, it requires some ways of solving," he said.

In response to the House members' question that Malaysia closed its embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, Alatas pointed out that actually Malaysia had not yet severed its diplomatic relations with the country.

"Besides, Malaysia did not order Yugoslavia to close its embassy in Kuala Lumpur," said Alatas, who added that Indonesia has been asked to take charge of Malaysia's interests in the country.

Asked about Malaysia's stance on the matter, he said that it was bilateral problem of both countries.

On Indonesia's stance, he said: "We have to carefully deal with the problem. Actually, we hope that a solution would be achieved in the troubled country.

He pointed out that up to 12 August, there were 49 head of states that have been confirmed to attend the summit meeting. Four countries will send their prime ministers, whereas 10 countries will send their foreign ministers.

He said that he did not know yet exactly the number of heads of state/government to attend the summit meeting, as listing process is still continuing.

"We can't now confirm how many heads of state and government to attend the summit and in what level, president, premier or minister," he said.

Embassy in Belgrade To Guard Malaysian Interests

BK1308124392 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] Indonesia will look after Malaysia's interests in Yugoslavia following its decision to close its embassy in Belgrade as a protest against violence committed against the people in Bosnia-Hercegovina by the Serbian regime. Foreign Minister Ali Alatas disclosed this in Jakarta today after Malaysia asked Indonesia to represent it in Yugoslavia. The Malaysian foreign minister had also ordered the closure of the Yugoslav Embassy in Kuala Lumpur. As for Indonesia's stand on the issue, Minister Alatas said the Indonesian Government basically wants to see a peaceful solution to the ethnic conflict in Yugoslavia.

Vice President Hails Mining Accord With PRC

BK1408040892 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Vice President Sudharmono has hailed a cooperation agreement on general mining between Indonesia and the PRC and hoped for a further expansion of bilateral trade, especially in general mining. The vice president made the remarks when he received a courtesy call from a delegation of the PRC General Mining Industry, who were accompanied by officials of the Mining and Energy Department in Jakarta yesterday.

Speaking to reporters later, Fei Jiwan, leader of the delegation, hoped that the signing of the cooperation agreement will boost general mining cooperation and trade ties between the private sector of the two countries. The PRC delegation will also visit Bandung, Bintan, and Batam Island.

Minister Defends Employment of 400 PRC Workers

BK1408082592 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0743 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Jakarta, August 14 (OANA-ANTARA) - Manpower Minister Cosmas Batubara said on Thursday that the employment of hundreds of Chinese workers in Indonesia by P.T. [Company Limited] Indah Kiat Paper has been done according to the procedures.

The paper company belonging to business tycoon Eka Cipta Wijaya has invited the workers to handle machineries in its pulp plants in Pakanbaru (Riau), Serang (West Java), and Mojokerto (East Java).

Their employment term is limited to two years so gradually their duty will be taken over by Indonesian workers, the minister told reporters before briefing 27 exemplary workers here.

Cosmas reiterated that the government was consistent in protecting Indonesian workers and the presence of these overseas workers have been tighlty screened to prevent them from occupying positions which are supposed to be for the Indonesians.

The director general for guidance and employment, Ismail Sumaryo, who flanked the minister, denied allegations that the number of the Chinese workers reached 1,000.

"It is true that the company has asked for 1,000, but the government has admitted only around 400, he said.

Justice Minister Ismail Saleh said on Thursday that the sending for the Chinese workers was not illegal and these workers had been given working permits from the Ministry of Manpower and intelligence agencies concerned.

"The immigration office must have taken steps if they have no working permits," he said.

Ismail Sumaryo said that the employment of the Chinese workers was part of the purchase agreement with the Chinese side and consituted as an after-sale service.

Timber Poaching Threatens Irian Jaya Forest

BK1308085792 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] About 280,000 hectares of forest in seven subdistricts in Sorong District, Irian Jaya, are now facing destruction due to uncontrolled poaching by several timber concessionaires. The irresponsible actions by the timber companies have not only undermined the public, but also the government and the nation, because the companies do not have a replanting program to implement after cutting down the trees. Speaking in Sorong, Fedu Kalangi, chairman of Aborigine People Association, said there are now about 14 companies involving in

illegal poaching in Sorong District and (Bintumi) subdistrict in Manokwari District.

Laos

SRV's Do Muoi, Phoun Sipaseut Visit Provinces

BK1308141792 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] At 0815 today, Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, leading a visit to Laos by a high-level Vietnamese party and state delegation, flew from the capital city, Vientiane, to central and southern provinces in Laos—Savannakhet, Saravane, and Champassak. The Vietnamese delegation was accompanied by Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, Political Bureau member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee, deputy prime minister, and minister of foreign affairs.

Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi and his delegation arrived by plane in Savannakhet Province at 0940. The guests were received at the airport by Comrade Boun-gnang Volachit, party Central Committee member, Savannakhet Provincial party secretary, and Savannakhet Provincial governor; members of the provincial party and administration; and a large number of people from the province. Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi and his delegation met with the committees of the provincial party and administration while in Savannakhet. Comrade Secretary General Do Muoi was briefed by the comrade secretary of the Savannakhet Party Committee on the progress of economic development in Savannakhet Province. The Vietnamese visitor asked about socioeconomic relations and cooperation between Savannakhet Province and Vietnamese central provinces, which share a common border with the Lao province.

Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi and his party left Savannakhet by plane at 1040 and arrived at Pakse Airport in Champassak Province at 1110. At the airport, the party was received by Comrade Ounneua Phimmachan, member of the LPRP Central Committee, secretary of Champassak Provincial Party Committee, and governor of Champassak Province; leading members of the provincial party and administration committees; and residents of the provincial municipality.

Later, the high-level Vietnamese party and state delegation travelled by helicopter from Pakse District to a tourist site in Tat Lo, Saravane Province. Comrade Thongvang Sihachak, member of the LPRP Central Committee, secretary of Saravane Provincial Party Committee and governor of the province, welcomed the guests and hosted a luncheon on their behalf. Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi and his entourage visited the Seset hydroelectric dam at 1430. The completed dam has been generating electricity for several years, supplying electricity to Champassak and Saravane Provinces as well as to a foreign country.

Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi arrived by plane in Pakse District, Champassak Province at 1530. At 1830 on the same day, Comrade Ounneua Phimmachan, secretary of Champassak Provincial Party Committee and governor of Champassak, hosted a dinner in honor of Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi and his party.

Foreign, Vietnamese Investments Viewed

BK1208044692 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 12 Aug 92

[Text] Boun-ngang Sengchandavong, deputy director of the Investment Protection Department of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, talked to a KHAOSAN PATHET LAO reporter on the afternoon of 11 August about foreign investment in Laos.

He said that the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] has expanded its relations and cooperation with other countries since 1988. Specifically, the implementation of the open-door policy actually began after an enacment of laws on extensive promotion of foreign investment in Laos.

Until now, the total value of foreign investment in Laos has amounted to more than U.S. $341,300,000 in 232 projects from 24 countries. This includes the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, which has invested in the LPDR since 1988.

At present, the SRV is operating joint ventures with Laos in four projects. They are an import-export cooperation project in Savannakhet Province, [word indistinct], production of cement bricks, and production of stone for general construction. The total value of these Vietnamese investments in Laos is U.S. $548,000.

Boun-gnang went on to say that although the investment in Laos by the SRV Government is low when compared to those from other countries, there is a tendency for the cooperation between the two sides to expand. Three fourths of the Vietnamese investments are, however, in their initial stage.

Boun-gnang added that, at present, investors from both the government and private sectors of the SRV, are interested in salt mining exploration in Khammouane Province, animal raising in Saravane Province, and brick production in Savannakhet Province. All these are in the stage of feasibility studies and are under consideration by the LPDR Government.

Economic Cooperation Protocol Signed With Russia

BK1308111492 Vientiane KPL in English 0918 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] Vientiane, August 13 (KPL)— A protocol on economic cooperation and debt settlement between Laos and Russia was signed in Vientiane on August 11, defining some policies and measures to further their economic cooperation on the basis of equality and reciprocity for 1992 and the following years.

The protocol provides ways to expand the bilateral trade relations and cooperation in which debt settlement will be made in foreign currencies, and these will be based on the new economic mechanism. The document also stipulates different issues of common interest, particularly debt settlement, expanded cooperation, economic relations between the economic units of the two countries, and the ability of the Russian firms to participate in the international bids in Laos.

Signing the protocol were on the Lao side Mr. Soun Detvongsa, director of the Economy, Planning and Finance Ministry's External Finance Department, and on the Russian side its trade representative to Laos. The signing ceremony was witnessed by Mr. Khamsai Souphanouvong, deputy minister of Economy, Planning and Finance, and some senior officials from both sides.

Minister Phoun Sipaseut's Activities Reported

Receives Japanese Delegation

BK1208050092 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 12 Aug 92

[Text] Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, received Kawakami, director of the Office of Economic Cooperation of Japan's Foreign Ministry, at the Lao Foreign Ministry on the evening of 10 August.

The exchange of views between the guest and the host helped promote better understanding for both sides. They concurred that socioeconomic relations and cooperation between Laos and Japan have been improved and expanded consistently and efficiently at a satisfactory level.

Kawakami is on a working visit to Laos from 9 to 11 August to inspect progress of and hold consultations with Lao authorities on socioeconomic relations and cooperation between the two countries.

While in Laos, the Japanese visitor and his delegation have also visited some Japanese-assisted projects in Vientiane.

Attends Thai Embassy Reception

BK1308104492 Vientiane KPL in English 0916 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] Vientiane, August 13 (KPL)—Thai Ambassador to Laos Nikhom Tantemsap, on August 11 hosted at the Thai Embassy here a reception to mark the 60th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The reception was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Phoun Sipaseut, other senior Lao officials, and members of the diplomatic corps here.

Congratulates Mongolian Counterpart

BK1308103092 Vientiane KPL in English 0915 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] Vientiane, August 13 (KPL)—Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Phoun Sipaseut has recently sent a telegram of congratulations to the Mongolian foreign relations minister over his reappointment to the post.

Phoun Sipaseut was convinced that the friendly relations and many-sided cooperation between Laos and Mongolia will be further developed for the happiness of their two people, and for peace, friendship and cooperation.

Marijuana Seized in Khammouane Province

BK1408043692 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 12 Aug 92

[Text] According to a report from Nongbok District, Khammouane Province, trading of illicit goods is still being conducted in some localities in the district. Local authorities, however, are also trying to collect relevant evidence and information to bring to justice the persons engaging in such transactions in accordance with the law of the country. Of course, these persons know full well that their activities are in violation of the law, especially those laws concerning drug trafficking.

On the morning of 8 July, the Nongbok District authorities arrested three persons at Som Sa-at canton, with part of what the authorities initially perceived was 68 kg of marijuana in their posession. The culprits were reported to have received cooperation or conspiracy from local authorities in the canton administration, who were subsequently reprimanded, fined, and expelled from the organization by the district administration. All this was attributed to the lack of a sense of responsibility among and the selfish nature of the local authorities concerned. Therefore, cadres and authorities concerned at all levels must maintain strict discipline in carrying out duties.

Customs Officer: Border Smuggling at 'High Rate'

BK1108103692 Vientiane KPL in English 0918 GMT 11 Aug 92

[Text] Vientiane, August 11 (KPL)—The smuggling of goods into Lao border cities is still at a high rate, said Mr. Namchai Souvannavong, deputy director of the Customs Department, Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Finance, in his recent interview to KPL.

During April-December 1991, 3,823 cases of goods smuggling worth 660 million kip were investigated and fined in Vientiane Prefecture alone. In the first half of this year, more than 2,000 cases were registered with seized goods of more than 625 million kip.

The deputy director explained that the high rate of smuggling was due to negligence of the issue among officers and local people.

To solve the problem, the Customs Department has improved its organisational structure in accordance with the present situation, organizing refersher courses to upgrade customs officers, placing the right men to the right positions, and adjusting the rates of allowance for customs officers.

Philippines

Government Achieves IMF Program Targets

HK1308063592 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 13 Aug 92 p 17

[By Arleen C. Chipongian]

[Text] The Philippines is expected to get the seal of good house-keeping from the International Monetary Fund as it has met the fiscal and monetary targets under the IMF-sponsored economic stabilization program.

A visiting mission from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has expressed satisfaction over the initial economic data presented to it by the country's economic officials.

Finance Undersecretary Romeo Bernardo yesterday said that they were confident that the Philippines will pass the formal review which will start next week.

The review should have been made as early as March this year but the government had to seek a postponement to have more time to meet some of the targets.

One of the criteria that took a long time for the country to meet was the money supply target. The reserve money, which is a broad measure of the amount of pesos in circulation, was supposed to be at P124.7 billion [Philippine pesos] for July but actual figures showed a high figure of P127.2 billion.

The excess liquidity was siphoned off mainly through the floation of high-yield government securities, notably the Treasury bills.

For two consecutive weeks last month, the Central Bank, as fiscal agent of the national government, rose the weekly volume of Treasury bills to P10.5 billion from P8.5 billion.

A favorable review of the country's economic performance is critical to the release of $450 million in loans tied to the IMF program.

Of this amount, $400 million represents the economic integration loan from the IMF, the World Bank, and the Japan Export Import Bank.

The implementation of the recently-signed financial agreement with foreign commercial banks is also tied to the IMF's seal of good housekeeping.

Members of the IMF review mission have arrived in Manila and were welcomed with the full liberalization of all foreign exchange regulations as announced by President Ramos on Monday.

Bernardo said the formal review will cover policy issues and structural reforms that the government must pursue.

One of the remaining policies that will be discussed is on energy deregulation. This will cover the pricing of both petroleum products and electricity.

Foreign Loans Amount to $588.94 Million

HK1308053192 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 13 Aug 92 pp 1, 5

[Text] Total foreign loans drawn by the Philippines amounted to $588.94 million in the first 6 months of the year, up by 39.8% from last year's comparative level, the Coordinating Council for the Philippine Assistance Program (CCPAP) reported yesterday.

The first semester drawdown represents 31% of the target for the whole year and 67% of the revised target for all implementing agencies, CCPAP executive director Rogelio L. Singson said.

This recorded drawdown is "rather slow" compared with the previous years, government sources told Business World, due to Government's budgetary constraints.

Other obstacles to a faster drawdown of loans such as the right- of-way, squatter's relocation, procurement delays, and contractor delays have been addressed by the CCPAP and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

Budgetary constraints remain to be the biggest problem due to the tight expenditure program being observed by Government. The National Government's [NG] budget deficit is being kept at P9 billion [Philippine pesos] for the year. As of June 1992, the NG's cash position showed a surplus of P3.7 billion, still way ahead of the program.

The National Government continued to post a surplus. As of the middle of July, this was about P0.1 billion due primarily to underspending, sources said.

If this underspending continues, the drawdowns of foreign loans may continue to decrease.

Of the total drawdowns as of June 1992, project loans accounted for $478.91 million while program loans accounted for about $110.03 million. Of these, program loans decreased by 10.3% from last year's $122.70 million level. Project loans increased by 60.3% over the $298.71 million posted in the same period last year.

The biggest drawdowns were from the World Bank at $268.07 million followed by the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund at $214.5 million and the Asian Development Bank [ADB] at $103.23 million. Only the

ADB drawdowns reported a decline of 20.1% from last year's comparative level because no drawdown was made from program loans.

Of the implementing agencies which accounted for the loan drawdowns, the Department of Finance showed the highest availment at $100.15 million followed by the Development Bank of the Philippines at $88.77 million; Department of Health at $57.96 million; National Power Corp. at $49.99 million; Department of Public Works and Highways at $44.99 million; Department of Public Works and Highways at $44.99 million; Department of Transportation and Communication at $37.71 million; Land Bank of the Philippines at $34.82 million; and, the Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System at $29.81 million.

The Philippines is supposed to avail of some $1.0 billion to $1.5 billion loans this year, sources said. Whether this target can be met will depend on how the budgetary constraints are addressed. Members of the PAP [Philippine Assistance Program] council will be meeting within the month to look into possible solutions to the problems of absorptive capacity.

The PAP council will have new members: Roberto de Ocampo as chairman, who is also the DBP [Development Bank of the Philippines] chairman; Finance Secretary Ramon R. del Rosario, Jr., Trade and Industry Secretary Rizalino Navarro; Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo, Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon; and NEDA director-general Cielito Habito. The new legislative members have yet to be appointed.

Manila Judge Dismisses 11 Charges Against Imelda

HK1408042492 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] Eleven charges against former First Lady Imelda Marcos with regard to her overseas deposits have been dismissed by a Manila Regional Trail Court judge.

Judge Manuel Muro said the charges against Mrs. Marcos were dismissed because the court no longer has the authority to try these cases since the government deregulated foreign exchange. President Ramos earlier deregulated dollar and other foreign currency trading in the country to attract investment.

Mrs. Marcos faces 39 criminal charges for maintaining $365 million worth of bank accounts abroad without the Central Bank's permission.

Marcos' Remains 'Certain' To Return 1 Sep

HK1308040392 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 12 Aug 92

[Text] The return of President Ferdinand Marcos remains on 1 September is now certain.

Secretary Rafael Alunan of the Department of Interior and Local Government said he spoke with former First Lady Imelda Marcos on procedures for the return of the corpse to the country and the burial place.

It was learned that Marcos' body could be buried in Laoag, Ilocos Norte, beside that of his late mother, Dona Josefa Edralin.

Alunan promised the Marcos family that there would be honor rites at the burial of the late president in recognition and respect for him.

191 Communist Rebels Take Advantage of Amnesty

HK1308121892 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] One hundred ninety-one Cagayan Valley communist rebels returned to the fold of the government as the first batch of those availing themselves of President Ramos' amnesty program. House Speaker Jose De Venecia reported this to President Ramos during the chief executive's weekly meeting with members of the Lower House.

According to De Venecia, the rebel returnees were from the towns of Pamplona, Sanchez Mira, and Lasam in Cagayan. They were persuaded by Cagayan Congressman Edgar Lara to return to the fold of the government after the president authorized congressmen to help in the administration's amnesty program.

In line with the amnesty program, the president has also instructed Defense Secretary Renato de Villa to concentrate on raising funds necessary to ensure the success of the amnesty program.

Concurrently, Agusan del Norte Congresswoman Charito Plaza noted that one of the problems hindering the success of the amnesty program is its lack of funds. She said under the National Reconciliation and Development Program, the government needs money to pay for the weapons being surrendered by the rebel returnees as an incentive for yielding and to collect all loose firearms, and to finance the livelihood and resettlement projects for the rebel returnees.

At present, Plaza said, the lack of funds is compensated for by contributions from the Department of Social Welfare and Development and from the various local government units.

Communist Rebels To Adopt New Insurgency Plan

HK1408085792 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 14 Aug 92

[By Claude Vitug]

[Text] The Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army [CPP-NPA] will change its insurgency strategy in the country.

In a document which recently fell into the hands of the military, it was revealed that the NPA, on the orders of the CPP, intends to withdraw from direct confrontation

with the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP].

According to AFP Lieutenant Colonel Arsenio Ganayo, the information was taken from a document entitled 'Reaffirm Our Basic Principles and Rectify the Errors,' which CPP Chairman Jose Maria Sison wrote. In the document, Sison ordered Communist Party leaders in the country to change the strategies they use to fight the government by recalling their guerrilla units and concentrating on infiltrating government and nongovernment organization and agitation by various political groups.

Colonel Ganayo also said that the communist movement's higher echelons have recalled (unit) leaders in Central Luzon and the Cordilleras following suspicions that these groups have already been infiltrated by government agents.

Thailand

Concern Voiced Over Possible NAFTA Effects

BK1408015092 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Aug 92 pp 18, 26

[Text] The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), whose creation was announced on Wednesday, could affect Thai garment, footwear, and canned tuna exports investment, and bargaining power in world trade talks, officials in Bangkok warned yesterday.

Commerce Ministry officials expressed some concern about possible harmful effects on Thai trade and investment. But they also saw some opportunities arising from the creation of what could be the world's largest market for trade in goods and services.

At the same time, officials are still wrestling with figures to try to work out as accurately as possible what the effect on Thailand will be. Forecasts of the effects of such a complex agreement that will be phased in over the next 10 to 15 years are notoriously difficult to make.

The free flow of goods and services in a market of 360 million people with purchasing power of $6 trillion will almost certainly increase the volume of trade and investment in the United States, Canada and Mexico, the three members of NAFTA, analysts say.

Whether this will draw resources away from other parts of the world, or whether it will accelerate world economic and trade growth—meaning greater opportunities for the rest of the world—is a matter of debate.

Thai officials yesterday suggested that some exports could suffer, such as garments, footwear and canned tuna. But they also saw opportunities for other products and for Thai companies to invest in North America to take advantage of the expanding market. In the case of textiles and garments this could imply some companies shifting production from Thailand to Mexico.

Business Economics Department director general Sukhon Kanchanalai also suggested that Association of Southeast Asian Nations should attach greater priority to creating its own free trade area. This, she said, would make Southeast Asia more attractive for trade and investment partially counter-balancing the new attraction of North America.

Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun reacted coolly to the news that the United States, Canada and Mexico have finally agreed to set up a free trade area after 14 months of difficult negotiations.

He said the creation of NAFTA merely followed a worldwide trend in which countries were striving to increase regional trade. Thailand was also pursuing that aim by advocating the creation of the ASEAN Free Trade Area, he said.

Although negotiations on NAFTA face problems the success of the North American negotiations will probably encourage ASEAN members to recognise the need to cooperate more, the prime minister said.

Deputy Commerce Minister Pridiyathon Thewakun said that some Thai businesses might be hurt by NAFTA, others could gain by investing in Mexico which could become a gateway to the United States and Canada.

Textiles and garments, whose cross-border quotas will be removed within NAFTA, is one sector Thai companies could exploit, he suggested.

"I know a number of Thai companies that have already started or are preparing to do so in Mexico because they have realised the potential there," he said.

Although the three countries have agreed to set up NAFTA, their legislatures still have to endorse the agreement. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the world trade watchdog, is also being asked to study whether NAFTA breaks GATT rules by causing injury to outsiders.

Thai officials said yesterday they would watch for the outcome of deliberations in GATT's ruling council. GATT might decide that some of NAFTA's provisions do cause harm to other countries. If that happens then the three NAFTA members would have to revise their agreement or compensate the injured countries.

Ms Sukhon also warned that if the United States, Canada and Mexico decide to negotiate as one voice in the Uruguay Round of GATT-sponsored talks, then the balance in the negotiation would be upset. Third, he said, could jeopardise the chances of agreement being reached in the talks that began in 1986 and are deadlocked over farm trade liberalisation.

Thailand exports 166.5 billion baht annually to North America, about 23 percent of all Thai exports. Of this percentage, 21.3 percent goes to the United States, 1.4 percent to Canada and 0.3 percent to Mexico. Trade between the three NAFTA members accounts for 37

percent of their international commerce, the remaining 63 percent being with the rest of the world.

Ms Sukhon said the government and private sector would have to work hard to make sure that if there is a reduction in the 63 percent share that the NAFTA countries trade with the rest of the world, Thailand's share does not fall.

She suggested the government should cut private sector costs, without harming "social justice" for example by reducing to zero or low rates import duties on raw materials used to make exports, and by cutting red tape.

The private sector would have to strive to improve quality and cost advantages, and consider producing new products or investing in Mexico, she said.

Ms Sukhon also pointed out that ASEAN's plans for regional free trade have a 15-year timetable, five years shorter than NAFTA's. This could put ASEAN at a disadvantage in trying to match NAFTA's attractiveness, she said. But Ms Sukhon added that a timetable shorter than 15 years is unlikely since the 15 years agreed at the ASEAN Summit in January was already a compromise.

Thailand and Mexico recently signed a bilateral trade agreement and the Commerce Ministry now has a commercial counsellor in Mexico City. A Thai trade centre should be opened in Mexico City soon.

Ministry Opposes Western Policy Toward Burma

BK1308025192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Aug 92 p 3

[Text] Thailand believes that its constructive engagement policy towards Burma is an "Asian way" that will lead to political reforms in that country, a reliable source revealed yesterday.

Foreign Ministry officials agreed at a recent meeting that Western means aimed at putting pressure on the Rangoon government to release all political prisoners and rapidly transfer power to a democratically-elected government are not effective because they are too aggressive.

"The Asian way," the source said, "is a more suitable means to persuade the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) to allow democracy to develop in Burma."

"We cannot use the Western perspective to handle the situation in Burma," said the source, who requested anonymity.

However, Thai officials at the meeting expressed concern that even the "Asian way" might not succeed unless the Burmese Government agrees to cooperate by showing signs of compromise by promising political freedom, the source said.

He said that the sincerity of the SLORC was a crucial factor that would determine the success or failure of the policy.

Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin told U Ohn Gyaw, his Burmese counterpart, last Saturday that Burma's credibility depended on its promises to grant political liberalisation.

The source added that some officials regarded Gen Than Shwe, who replaced Gen Saw Maung as chairman of SLORC in April, as the leader to whom Thailand can talk to because he has shown more willingness to compromise than his predecessor.

The source also noted that some positive developments have taken place since Gen Than Shwe took over as SLORC chairman.

Rangoon has released 277 political prisoners, allowed Nobel Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi's husband to visit her and promised to hold a national convention by January, he noted. But opposition groups claim despite these goodwill gestures some 2,000 political prisoners still remain in jail.

The officials suggested that Thailand should accelerate the democratic development process in Burma by finding a way for the Government and the opposition to compromise.

But other officials argued that Gen Than Shwe's sincerity is still questionable even though the military junta has already claimed that they have stopped oppressing minority ethnic groups. He said there are indications that Rangoon has been busy improving its armed forces in preparation for a new offensive in summer.

"Their argument is based on evidence indicating that the Burmese Government still keeps buying arms from China and warplanes from Poland," they said.

So Thailand should wait and see before making any further initiatives or overtures, the source said.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said recently that Malaysia would not levy sanctions on Burma, and would only use consultation and persuasion when dealing with the Rangoon government.

Last Saturday exiled Burmese students called on the Thai Government to reconsider its policy towards Burma and urged the SLORC to give power to elected representatives and free all political prisoners.

The meeting, whose participants included Foreign Ministry and National Security officials and academics, was held at the Foreign Ministry.

3 Killed in Separatists-Claimed Explosion

BK1308141092 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] The PULO [Pattani United Liberation Organization] terrorists attacked the Hat Yai railway station at noon today while a large crowd of passengers were buying train tickets and waiting for the train. Three persons were killed and 77 wounded. The wounded were rushed to four hospitals in Hat Yai district. Authorities

found two bombs at the scene. After checking the fragments, bomb experts from the 42d Army Circle concluded that they are TNT anti-personnel bombs. Authorities also found letters written in the Yawi dialect and signed by the PULO at the scene. The letter called for justice for Muslim believers.

The scene of the explosion was near the site where the Palang Dharma Party leader Major General Chamlong Simuang was to hold an election campaign rally this evening. The governor of Songkhla Province, Second Lieutenant Pokkhrong Chindaphon, said he did not think the incident was politically motivated, and believed it was the work of the terrorist movement. The Hat Yai raiway station was attacked by terrorists once in 1979. There was also a bomb threat there two years ago.

The State Railway Authority has reported that there will be no interruption of the rail service. Commuters can board the train at Hat Yai station and buy tickets on the train.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant General Anuson Kritsanaserani, director of the Supreme Command Information Office, said the police will have to carry out the investigations since the Internal Security Command had already been dissolved. He added that he could not tell whether the incident was politically motivated as soldiers no longer meddled in politics.

Commenting on the explosion, Interior Ministry Permanent Secretary Anan Anantakun said he did not believe the incident was motivated by personal affairs. According to a report from the Interior Ministry, the time bomb was planted near the station's ticket booths when the Bangkok-bound train was about to leave the station. Anan Anantakun said there had already been an attempt to bomb the railway station in Chana District, Songkhla Province, but police found the bomb before it exploded.

Deputy Police Chief Police General Manat Khrutchaiyan said police would be able to establish the facts of the incident and arrest the culprits in a few days as they are closely following the case.

Speaking to reporters at Government House, Deputy Prime Minister Interior Minister Police General Phao Sarasin said the real cause of the explosion should be known in a few days. Officials are checking with the police superintendent of Songkhla Province. He expressed his belief that the destructive explosion was a sabotage rather than a politically motivated attack.

Paper Condemns Bomb Attack

BK1408024792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Aug 92 p A6

[Editorial: "Unjustified Violence in Hat Yai Must Be Condemned"]

[Text] Who was behind the heinous crime of bombing the Hat Yai railway station yesterday, in which the initial casualties were put at 2 dead and 70 wounded? Letters found at the scene, written in both Thai and Jawi (a Malay dialect used in the five Muslim-dominated southern Thai provinces of Songkhla, Satun, Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat), claimed the bomb was planted by the Pattani United Liberation Organization (Pulo), a Thai Muslim separatist movement trying to form a new independent Islamic state in southern Thailand. But no one knows right now whether the letters are authentic.

Also yesterday there was an explosion on a Singapore-registered tanker near Sri Racha in the Gulf of Thailand; one South Korean was killed and a few other crewmen were hurt. This could be mere coincidence. Yet authorities should investigate whether there was any connection between the two incidents.

The explosion in Hat Yai occurred a few hours before Maj Gen Chamlong Simuang, founder of Phalang Tham Party, was scheduled to hold a rally at the railway station to drum up local support for Phalang Tham's candidates in the upcoming polls. Perhaps the bomb was intended to disrupt Chamlong's rally? (It doesn't.seem the bomb was intended to kill Chamlong because it was planted near the ticket booth, far from where Chamlong was to address voters.)

Chamlong had told the media of his fear of assassination by his foes in the military, who were hurt by the recent transfer of top commanders responsible for the bloodshed in May. Yet Chamlong should not be inclined to jump to the conclusion that the bomb was planted by his political enemies and play on the public abhorrence of violence to gain sympathy votes for Phalang Tham candidates.

So who else would want to kill and maim innocent people in a crowded railway station? One consequence of such indiscriminate bombing is to create confusion and spread fear among the public. In another time and place, this situation could create the opportunity for certain military powers to attempt a coup by raising the need to restore law and order as an excuse.

However, under the existing delicate balance of power in the armed forces, no military group can hope to succeed in a coup attempt anytime soon. The newly appointed top commanders, particularly army chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit, have no reason to try to seize power. They appear quite happy with the status quo arranged by the Anan II administration which gives them a free hand to reshuffle mid-level officers in the current transfer season.

At the same time those who have been toppled from their spheres of influence are still coming to terms with their fall from power. As well, they no longer seem to enjoy the kind of military support that would be needed to sweep aside the Anan 11 administration and seize power once again. In any event such an action would be opposed by the entire Thai nation.

Furthermore, it is known that the Fourth Army Region under the command of Lt Gen Kitti Rattanachaya had opposed military intervention in politics during the May

crisis, and so we can confidently put to rest any doubt that a "third hand" is trying to stir up trouble for some sinister political purpose.

This leaves Pulo separatists as the most probable culprits in the Hat Yai bombing. But what can Pulo achieve with such a senseless act of terrorism? Though the identities of the dead are being withheld until their next of kin have been notified, we can assume that some of those killed or wounded are Thai Muslims, just like the Pulo separatists.

What have these innocent people done to deserve such painful cruelty? Is their indifference to the Pulo's separatist movement an unforgivable crime in the eyes of the fanatics? We wouldn't like to think so .

Some authorities suggest Pulo was desperate to restore its sagging image and that it chose to flex its muscles in such a vile way in order to impress its traditional patrons overseas.

If this was true then the separatist movement's action indicates that it has degenerated into a mindless terrorist gang, unworthy of any recognition or sympathy.

There can be no justification whatsoever for yesterday's bombing in Hat Yai. There can only be complete condemnation for such indiscriminate violence, and every effort has to be made to bring those responsible to justice.

Attack Said Politically Motivated

BK1408005692 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Aug 92 p 1

[Text] Phalang Tham Party [PTP] adviser Sqn Ldr Prasong Sunsiri claimed yesterday that the bomb attack at Hat Yai Railway Station was politically motivated and targeted at Maj-Gen Chamlong Simuang and his party.

Sqn-Ldr Prasong said he came to this conclusion after consulting his local contacts in Songkhla Province. Former Phalang Tham Party leader Maj-Gen Chamlong was campaigning only five kilometres from the railway station at the time of the blast.

He said he did not believe that the attack was the work of the PTP's poltical rivals because political parties do not usually resort to violence to solve such conflicts.

The attack is more likely the work of people who lost face or power as a result of the role played by Maj-Gen Chamlong during the May events, Sqn-Ldr Prasong said.

He said the purpose of the attack might be to create fear among members of the public wishing to attend the PTP's political rallies, both in Hat Yai and other places.

He said people might not attend the PTP political rallies if they think they are unsafe.

"I am sure the Prime Minister and the Interior Minister will not be happy now that this type of problem has arisen," Sqn-Ldr Prasong said.

"It is the duty of the law enforcement officials to quickly investigate and find the people responsible for this attack," the former National Security Council chief said.

He ruled out the Pattani United Liberation Organisation (PULO) as the culprits as they have be n politically inactive for over 12 years.

Meanwhile, Dr Udomsin Sisaengnam, another key PTP member, disagreed with Sqn-Ldr Prasong's theory. He said he did not believe that the bomb was intended for the PTP.

However, he said the party would step up security measures for Maj-Gen Chamlong when the ex-PTP leader addresses the party's first major political rally at Wong Wian Yai this evening.

Committee on Missing Wants To End Work Quickly

BK1308012792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Aug 92 p A4

[Text] The chairman of the committee formed to search for people still missing after the Ratchdamnoen massacre yesterday said he expected it would complete its task before the tenure of the interim government expires.

Ari Wong-araya said the committee would hold its first meeting this week.

The committee, set up under a prime ministerial order, is charged with locating the people who went missing during the political turbulence in May.

Ari, the deputy permanent secretary for the Interior, said he will make all efforts to wrap up the inquiry before the government of Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun ends its tenure after the Sept 13 general election.

"The committee will go into details as much as possible when searching for the missing people in order to comply with the premier's policy in forming the committee," Ari said.

The 20-member committee is empowered to take "every necessary measures" to locate the people who remain unaccounted for after troops fired on demonstrators between May 17 and 20.

The committee can carry out searches and summon government authorities or other individuals believed to have been involved in the May incident to testify.

The committee will determine exactly how many people disappeared because of the political turbulence.

This will confirm the government's intention of clearing up all rumours that arose following the May bloodbath.

A government committee of investigation into the May turmoil in which the military gunned down scores of people has concluded that only 69 people went missing.

Pro-democracy groups have repeatedly claimed that the number of missing is more than 600.

After troops killed the unarmed demonstrators, the groups allege that the bodies were loaded onto trucks and taken to unknown destinations.

Ari said records at the Interior Ministry and other centres show that about 400 people are believed missing.

The ministry had tried to locate the missing people.

It had written to families which had earlier reported people unaccounted for after the May massacre, in a bid to confirm the exact number of missing, he said.

Provincial governors and police and district chiefs in all provinces have been instructed to help the committee locate the missing.

Vietnam

Russian Radio Said 'Eroding' Mutual Understanding

BK1308153192 Hanoi VNA in English 1510 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 13—The REUTER correspondent in Hanoi on August 12 asked the spokesperson of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry to comment of recent reports that a Vietnamese-language radio called "Irina Radio" or "Tieng Noi Tu Do" (Voice of Freedom) has hired channels on Radio Moscow to broadcast programmes aimed at subverting the Vietnamese Government.

The spokesperson said: "The Vietnamese and Russian peoples are bound by long-standing friendship and the Vietnamese and Russian states share the desire of preserving friendly relations and cooperation on the basis of mutual respect and benefit. This has been many times affirmed by Russian leaders, most recently reiterated by Russian Vice-Premier Makharadze during his visit to Vietnam late last July.

"We hold that the activities of the 'Irina Radio' aimed at subverting the Vietnamese Government as has been repeatedly reported by the BBC is an act contrary to the declarations of Russian leaders about their relations with Vietnam. Far from contributing to enhancing the existing mutual understanding and fine feelings between the two nations, these activities are eroding them. While the Vietnamese people are putting all their energy and mind in the effective implementation of the renovation policy and are rejoicing at its initial but significant successes, all acts aimed at sabotaging this cause are immoral and will be condemned by all people of conscience.

"Our position has always been very clear on this score. We think that the Russian Government is well aware and knows what it should do."

Paper Condemns KR for Blocking Peace Process

BK1408073992 Hanoi VNA in English 0637 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 14—The national daily NHAN DAN today strongly condemns the Khmer Rouge [KR] for blocking the implementation of the Paris agreement on Cambodia.

In a commentary, NHAN DAN says:

"Almost two months have passed since the beginning of the second phase of the cease-fire agreement on Cambodia which consists in regrouping, disarming and demobilising military forces of all Cambodian factions. The State of Cambodia and two other factions, have made serious efforts to implement the provisions of the second phase. Meanwhile, the Khmer Rouge has refused to regroup, disarm and demobilize their military forces. They prevent UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] personnel from entering the areas under their control and continue using military measures to encroach upon the other faction's territories. UNTAC's planes have been eight times fired at when flying over the areas controlled by them. The Khmer Rouge continue their habitual claim about 'the presence of Vietnamese troops' in Cambodia without producing any hard evidence. They persist in their demand for supervision of the withdrawal of foreign troops and dismantlement of the Phnom Penh administration, which are not written in any clause of the Paris agreement. Most recently, solidiers of the Khieu Samphan faction barbarously slaughtered two Vietnamese families in Cambodia, provoking horrer among world public opinion."

"A close neighbour of Cambodia and a signatory to the Paris agreement on Cambodia, Vietnam has always shown its goodwill and cooperated with the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, UNTAC and other concerned parties in stepping up the implementation of the agreement. The Vietnamese people have no other aspiration than to early see a Cambodia enjoying peace, stability, independence and development and maintaining friendly and cooperative relations with all neighbouring countries. The Vietnamese people's constructive attitude has been acknowledged and welcomed by the world communty."

Kaysone Phomvihan, Do Muoi Speak in Vientiane

BK1308155192 Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 13—In his speech of greetings at the banquet he offered in Vientiane on August 12 in honour of General Secretary Do Muoi of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV], Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and president of the State of Laos, said:

"As a close comrade-in-arms of Vietnam, having shared the same miserable plight and fought side by side through many decades, the Lao people have followed

with keen interest each step forward of Vietnam. The Lao party, government and people are very proud to see that the resolutions of the 7th Congress of the CPV have brought about initial but remarkable results which will enable Vietnam not only to stand firmly but also to make steady progress. The Communist Party of Vietnam, founded and trained by the great Ho Chi Minh, is renewing itself and firmly and constantly strengthening its vanguard role in the process of comprehensive renovation of the country. The implementation of this renewal policy together with the restructuring the mechanism of economic management and the open-door foreign policy has helped the party to step by step overcome a series of socioeconomic difficulties. These achievements bring into relief the patriotic tradition and efforts of the entire Vietnamese party and people in the cause of national defence and construction. It proves the correct line and the clearsighted leadership of the party and state of Vietnam."

In his reply, the Vietnamese party leader said:

"It is not easy to find such a lasting, loyal and pure relationship as the one between the Vietnamese and Lao peoples. Our countries are both leaning against the Truong Son range and drinking water from the Mekong River. We both were subjected to foreign domination and aggression and stood shoulder to shoulder in the fight for the liberation and independence of each country. In the new period of national construction, again our nations are sharing joys and sorrows and helping each other. The millenary history of peaceful coexistence and the centuries-old history of mutual support in fighting and in national construction have fostered a special relationship, an invaluable common legacy and a factor of decisive significance, for the success of the revolution of each country. That relationship has been 'legalised' by the treaty of friendship and cooperation, the 15th signing anniversary of which has just been celebrated. That treaty will forever remain a firm basis for the further consolidation and development of the all-sided relations between our two countries."

Joint Technical Commission Meets

BK1308162192 Hanoi VNA in English 1602 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 13—The Vietnamese-Lao Commission for Scientific and Technical Cooperation held its 7th session in Vientiane on August 11-12. The Vietnamese delegation was led by Dong Huu, head of the State Commission for Sciences, and the Lao delegation by Souli Nanthavong, minister of sciences and technology. The two sides valued highly the results of scientific and technical cooperation in 1991-1992 between the two countries. They signed a protocol on cooperation in this field in the 1992-93 period. Besides traditional fields, the two sides agreed to broaden their cooperation to other fields such as natural resources and environment, national energy planning, introduction of scientific and technical advances into building and developing rural aras, and research on resources of the Mekong River, etc.

While in Laos, the Vietnamese delegation also had working sessions with the Ministry of Economic External Relations, and called at a number of scientific research institutes and production establishments in Vientiane. It left Vientiane for home today.

Philippines Official Discusses Aid Projects

BK1408042092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 12 Aug 92

[Excerpts] In an exclusive interview granted to our radio correspondent on Vietnamese-Philippine relations, Mr. Rodrigo Aragon, Philippines charge d'affaires interim in Vietnam, said that the total trade value between Vietnam and the Philippines is nearly $100 million.

[Begin Aragon recording] As you know, most of these regional developments are not only bilateral but multilateral. Vietnam has become a signatory—it has acceeded—to the ASEAN Treaty on Amity and Cooperation. When the foreign minister of Vietnam went to the Philippines to attend the 25th ministerial meeting of the ASEAN, this has expanded the relations of ASEAN with Vietnam and it has affected very favorably the relations of the Philippines and Vietnam. [end recording]

On the prospective for the Filipino-Vietnamese relationship, Mr. Aragon said:

[Begin Aragon recording] [passage omitted] Right now, the relations between Vietnam and the Philippines are multiplying in various fields. We are assisting in the training of specific parts of the aviation industry in Vietnam. So, as required by Vietnam, they send people to the Philippines for short training periods in management, in financial management of airline operations, and some other fields. [end recording]

Ship Repair Venture With Russia Established

BK1408022692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] (?Soshiplaten), a Vietnamese-Russian joint venture specializing in ship and platform repair, has been established in Ho Chi Minh City's suburban district of Nhatrang. (?Soshiplaten) has an investment capital of 2.45 million U.S. dollars and a duration of 10 years. It is capable of handling ocean-going ships of up to 16,000 tons.

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